

# Guidance for registered apprenticeship programs regarding changes in Electrical Apprenticeship



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[www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalApprenticeship](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalApprenticeship)

## Changes for Electrical Apprenticeship

In 2018, the state Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill 6126 (SSB 6126). It changed how candidates qualify for (01) journey level electrician examinations.

As of July 1, 2023, when the legislation takes effect:

- Contractors have to be registered apprenticeship training agents or create their own registered apprenticeship to employ electrical trainees pursuing an 01 certificate;
- Trainees doing the kind of work limited to 01 electricians must be registered apprentices in the same apprenticeship as their training agent (employer) or enrolled in an approved two-year training program;
- Trainees will not qualify for 01 examinations without completing a registered apprenticeship program.

The Apprenticeship Program of the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries presents the following guidance in how the legislation will impact registered apprenticeship programs. Here are some things to keep in mind:

**Only programs that provide training in journey level (01) occupations are affected.**

Occupations for 01 electricians are:

- Construction Electrician
- Inside Electrician
- Inside Wireman

As of this publication, there are about a dozen registered apprenticeships offering training in these occupations. See a complete list at: [www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalApprenticeship](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalApprenticeship).

## Accepting hours from trainees

Applicants will be concerned about “stranded hours” — that is, hours that they worked but an apprenticeship program denied for advance standing. Here’s what you need to know:

1. **L&I’s Electrical Program licensing section** reviews and approves hours of experience for electrical trainees through the affidavit process. [www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalLicensing](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalLicensing)
2. **Registered apprenticeship programs can grant advance standing** based on hours approved by L&I’s Electrical Program licensing section.
3. **For specialty electrician certificate holders in the specialties listed below, your program is required to grant 4,000 hours for previous experience.** This is based on L&I review of state law (RCW 19.28.191(1) (c) (Effective July 1, 2023). WAC 296-46B-920 (<https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=296-46B-920>) provides a definition for each category:
  - Residential (02): WAC 296-46B-920 (2)(a)
  - Pump and irrigation (03): WAC 296-46B-920 (2)(b)



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- Signs (04): WAC 296-46B-920 (2)(d)
- Limited energy system (06):  
WAC 296-46B-920 (2)(e)
- HVAC/refrigeration system (06A):  
WAC 296-46B-920 (2)(f)(v)
- Nonresidential maintenance (07):  
WAC 296-46B-920 (2)(g)

4. **Regarding hours of work for non-certificate holders, your program *retains its authority* to evaluate and award credit towards advance standing of the applicant.** The total can include all hours, from the specialty list above, approved through L&I's Electrical Program licensing section.
5. **L&I's Apprenticeship Program reviews registered apprenticeship programs** for evidence of a "fair and equitable process" in granting credit for hours of work. This includes advance standing for 01 apprentices.
6. **There are no changes to an apprenticeship program's ability to evaluate a candidate's 01 commercial/industrial experience.**