

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5320**

Chapter 95, Laws of 2023

68th Legislature  
2023 Regular Session

JOURNEY LEVEL ELECTRICIAN CERTIFICATION—ELIGIBILITY

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

Passed by the Senate February 27,  
2023

Yeas 41 Nays 7

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 5, 2023

Yeas 98 Nays 0

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved April 14, 2023 10:08 AM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5320** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

**Secretary**

FILED

April 14, 2023

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5320**

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Passed Legislature - 2023 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Saldaña, Keiser, King, Randall, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/23.

1           AN ACT Relating to journey level electrician certifications of  
2 competency; amending RCW 19.28.191 and 19.28.195; providing an  
3 effective date; providing an expiration date; and declaring an  
4 emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6           **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2020 c 153 s 26 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8           (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review  
9 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to  
10 take an examination for the master journey level electrician, journey  
11 level electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty  
12 electrician certificate of competency.

13           (a) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journey  
14 level electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have  
15 possessed a valid journey level electrician certificate of competency  
16 for four years.

17           (b) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty  
18 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have  
19 possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in  
20 the specialty applied for, for two years.

1 (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey level  
2 certificate of competency, the applicant must have (~~successfully~~  
3 ~~completed an~~):

4 (i) Successfully completed the work experience and education  
5 requirements of an 8,000 hour electrical construction trade  
6 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW (~~or~~  
7 equivalent apprenticeship program approved by the department for the  
8 electrical construction trade in which the applicant worked in the  
9 electrical construction trade for a minimum of eight thousand  
10 hours)). Four thousand of the hours (~~shall~~) must be (~~in~~) new  
11 industrial or commercial electrical (~~installation~~) installations  
12 under the supervision of a master journey level electrician or  
13 journey level electrician and not more than a total of (~~four~~  
14 thousand) 4,000 hours in all specialties under the supervision of a  
15 master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master  
16 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or  
17 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.  
18 Specialty electricians with less than a (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour  
19 work experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain  
20 that specialty towards qualifying to become a journey level  
21 electrician. The holder of a specialty electrician certificate of  
22 competency with a (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour work experience  
23 requirement shall be allowed to credit the work experience required  
24 to obtain that certificate towards apprenticeship requirements for  
25 qualifying to take the examination for a journey level electrician  
26 certificate of competency;

27 (ii) Successfully completed an 8,000 hour electrical construction  
28 trade apprenticeship program in another jurisdiction equivalent to an  
29 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW. Four  
30 thousand of the hours must be new industrial or commercial electrical  
31 installations;

32 (iii) An out-of-state journey level electrician certificate  
33 obtained through examination by a state licensing jurisdiction  
34 requiring at least 8,000 hours of supervised experience in the  
35 electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical  
36 wiring and equipment for installations of a type regulated under this  
37 chapter. Four thousand of the hours must be new industrial or  
38 commercial electrical installations. All experience applied toward  
39 qualifying for examination must be experience gained in the state

1 that issued the certificate or military experience not exceeding that  
2 allowed under this chapter, or both;

3 (iv) At least 16,000 hours of out-of-state experience in the  
4 electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical  
5 wiring and equipment for installations of a type regulated under this  
6 chapter. Four thousand of the hours must be new industrial or  
7 commercial electrical installations; or

8 (v) Eight thousand hours of experience in the electrical  
9 construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and  
10 equipment for installations of a type regulated under this chapter  
11 while serving in a construction battalion in the armed forces of the  
12 United States.

13 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty  
14 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have:

15 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC  
16 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC  
17 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),  
18 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),  
19 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),  
20 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the  
21 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level  
22 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician  
23 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
24 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of (~~four~~  
25 ~~thousand~~) 4,000 hours;

26 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by  
27 the department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as  
28 determined by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty  
29 as determined by the department in rule, the pump and irrigation  
30 specialty other than as defined by (d)(i) of this subsection or  
31 domestic pump specialty as determined by the department in rule, or a  
32 specialty other than the designated specialties in (d)(i) of this  
33 subsection for a minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set  
34 by rule by the department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance  
35 specialty is limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for  
36 lighting branch circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes  
37 for other circuits excluding the replacement or repair of circuit  
38 breakers. The department may alter the scope of work for the  
39 restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty by rule. The initial  
40 period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a

1 master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master  
2 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or  
3 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After  
4 this initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. If  
5 the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised  
6 for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A  
7 person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the  
8 appliance repair specialty or in a specialty other than the  
9 designated specialties in (d)(i) of this subsection, however, until  
10 the person has worked a minimum of (~~two thousand~~) 2,000 hours in  
11 that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department;

12 (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program  
13 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the  
14 electrical construction trade; or

15 (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and  
16 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be  
17 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same  
18 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW  
19 18.106.040(1)(d). After meeting the training requirements provided in  
20 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon  
21 passing the examination, meeting additional training requirements as  
22 may still be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a  
23 domestic pump specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying  
24 the applicable fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate  
25 certificate. The department may include an examination for specialty  
26 plumbing certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(14)(c) with the  
27 examination required by this section. The department, by rule and in  
28 consultation with the electrical board, may establish additional  
29 equivalent ways to gain the experience requirements required by this  
30 subsection. The department shall establish a single document for  
31 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as  
32 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification  
33 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW  
34 18.106.010(14)(c), showing that the individual has received both  
35 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be  
36 imposed.

37 (e) Any applicant for a journey level electrician certificate of  
38 competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the  
39 electrical construction trade at public community or technical  
40 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade

1 schools licensed by the workforce training and education coordinating  
2 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to two years of the  
3 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience  
4 under a master journey level electrician or journey level electrician  
5 required under the apprenticeship program. The applicant shall obtain  
6 the additional two years of work experience required in industrial or  
7 commercial electrical installation prior to the beginning, or after  
8 the completion, of the technical school program. Any applicant who  
9 has received training in the electrical construction trade in the  
10 armed service of the United States may be eligible to apply armed  
11 service work experience towards qualification to complete an  
12 apprenticeship and take the examination for the journey level  
13 electrician certificate of competency.

14 (f) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of  
15 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a  
16 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public  
17 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally  
18 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce  
19 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,  
20 may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school  
21 program for one year of work experience under a master journey level  
22 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician  
23 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
24 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has  
25 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed  
26 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service  
27 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an  
28 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

29 (g) The department must determine whether hours of training and  
30 experience in the armed services or school program are in the  
31 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for  
32 hours of work experience. The department must use the following  
33 criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical  
34 training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

35 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of  
36 (~~three thousand~~) 3,000 or more hours.

37 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of  
38 (~~two thousand four hundred~~) 2,400 hours of student/instructor  
39 contact time must be technical electrical instruction directly

1 related to the scope of work of the electrical specialty. Student/  
2 instructor contact time includes lecture and in-school lab.

3 (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that  
4 accepts more than (~~one thousand~~) 1,000 hours transferred from  
5 another school's program.

6 (iv) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than  
7 two years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time  
8 hours proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more  
9 than fifty percent of the work experience required to attain  
10 certification.

11 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not  
12 be credited towards qualification for journey level electrician  
13 unless the training program is used to gain qualification for a  
14 (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour electrical specialty.

15 (h) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

16 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the  
17 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency.  
18 In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the  
19 board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the  
20 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating  
21 instructions for taking the examination.

22 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than  
23 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test  
24 for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after  
25 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of  
26 this section, "full-time basis" means (~~two thousand~~) 2,000 hours.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.195 and 2018 c 249 s 4 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (1) (~~The~~) Until July 1, 2026, notwithstanding RCW  
30 19.28.161(2)(a)(i) and 19.28.191(1)(c)(i), the department ((may))  
31 shall permit ((an applicant who obtained experience and training  
32 equivalent to a journey level apprenticeship program to take the  
33 examination if the applicant establishes that the applicant has the  
34 equivalent training and experience and demonstrates good cause for  
35 not completing the required minimum hours of work under standards  
36 applicable on July 1, 2023)):

37 (a) A person issued an electrical training certificate to work to  
38 gain the experience required to qualify for the journey level  
39 electrician certification examination without registering in an

1 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW or equivalent  
2 out-of-state apprenticeship program if before July 1, 2023, the  
3 trainee has:

4 (i) 3,000 hours of lawful experience worked in the electrical  
5 construction trade regulated under this chapter; or

6 (ii) Completed a two-year training school program pursuant to RCW  
7 19.28.191(1)(e).

8 (b) Electrical trainees described in (a) of this subsection to  
9 qualify for the journey level electrician certification examination  
10 without completing the work and education requirements of an  
11 apprenticeship approved under chapter 49.04 RCW or completing an  
12 equivalent out-of-state apprenticeship program. To be eligible to  
13 take the examination for a journey level certificate of competency,  
14 the applicant must demonstrate 8,000 hours of lawful experience  
15 working in the electrical construction trade regulated under this  
16 chapter. Four thousand of the hours must be new industrial or  
17 commercial electrical installations.

18 (2) This section expires July 1, ((2025)) 2026.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate  
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
21 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
22 effect July 1, 2023.

Passed by the Senate February 27, 2023.

Passed by the House April 5, 2023.

Approved by the Governor April 14, 2023.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 14, 2023.

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