

2015 HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

HB 1397

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1397
1/27/2015
22605

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Ellen Letang

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Qualifications for licensure as an electrician.

Minutes:

Attachment 1-2

Representative Beadle~State Representative serving District 27: (Attachment 1).

3:00

Representative Becker: The form 2586, does that detail hours. Are there forms that provide legitimacy to the hours actually worked on the job opposed to working a couple of days for the year?

Representative Beadle: It does automatically generate based of the jobs done. It gives an accurate assessment of the longevity in which you have been working on certain jobs in certain areas. It's fairly detailed in how often you have been working in that certain area.

Chairman Keiser: I know what the intent is but the amendment isn't very clear. Shouldn't we reference that for them because I could just take hours and it doesn't have to be electrician hours? Shouldn't we say as indicated on form 2586 so it's specific?

Representative Beadle: I have no objections to tighten it up? Representative Koppleman who serves on the board of electricians, he felt it would be better to leave up creating board policy so they could make sure that they were dealing with apples to apples. That's why it was left vague and it wasn't my intention to make it so any training could go towards it.

Representative Frantsvog: If you are going to become an electrician, you go through a series of training and testing. You are not advocating any testing, is that correct?

Representative Beadle: They have to go through the testing as well. All this does is under the current process to get licensed to be an electrician, it adjusts the military credit hours going towards those hours of experience that you would need for your status. It's still has the same testing requirements that exists within current law.

Chairman Keiser: Is there anyone else here to testify in support of HB 1397, opposition, neutral.

Lieutenant French~National Guard: Every branch of the military have different qualifications, training, lengths of training, so for the Army side, if you were going to be an electrician, you would go to school in basic training for 3½ to 4 months on the electrician side. The DD214, which is the proof of that you have been in the military and we have employed many electricians and want their hours counted. In the neutral position, we would help you with any wordage that you would need for all branches of the military.

James Schmidt~Executive Director, North Dakota State Electrical Office: (Attachment 2).

Representative Beadle: You mentioned reciprocity, what states do we have reciprocity with and do you know if any of them have policies regarding military experience?

Schmidt: We have 12 states that we have reciprocity with journeymen and 2 states that with master electricians. I don't know about military policies.

Chairman Keiser: The military doesn't always require somebody with a specialty to be doing that specialty all the time. If they are working on electrical sometimes but you are doing other things than electrical projects, which is one of the concerns I have. These hours are pretty critical for the people that aren't in the military and we want to make sure that we are keeping them relatively consistent. In your experience, is there way to word it so it's clear that it's electrical experience in the military? How does rule read?

Schmidt: When an application comes in and we look at the experience. We scrutinize and look at the time and one of the things that we are held to is the statement in our administrative rules and similar jurisdiction where work experience comes from. A person with military experience, under my watch, we would look at that and yes, this is electrical and we will give them credit for it. Right now, our rule limits it to 2,000 hours. I would put in the administrative rule to change that to say any military electrical experience deemed or equivalent to what we say would count. We do it for applicants from other states so why wouldn't we allow it there? The rule doesn't make any sense.

Representative Laning: Do you always allow 2,000 hours or do you vary those hours based on their experience? How do you apply the numbers of hours credited for applications?

Schmidt: 8,000 is required for an apprentice and 2,000 is what is allowable for the military. Are you referring to the apprenticeship or the military?

Representative Laning: How many hours do you vary from the military or is it the flat 2,000 hours?

Schmidt: I don't know that. Our system doesn't track that.

Representative Laning: I'm an applicant in the military; your state board reviews each application as to how much experience they had in the military. How do you judge the hours are credited to the applicant or do you just give them a flat 2,000 hours every time?

Schmidt: We would talk to the applicant so the hours are applicable and justifiable. If they would put in a 1,000, we wouldn't give them 2,000.

Chairman Keiser: The rule is "up to" 2,000?

Schmidt: Yes.

Representative Beadle: Gives reference points for the states we do have reciprocity.

Chairman Keiser: Closes the hearing. We will hold this bill.

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HB 1397

2/2/2015

23202

Subcommittee

Conference Committee



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Qualifications for licensure as an electrician.

Minutes:



Chairman Keiser: Opens the work session on HB 1397. If you recall there is a form 2586 and this simply allows the board to adopt rules for providing credit for military service and education up to 2,000 hours.

Representative Ruby: Didn't the board say that pretty much have the ability to do that and do already include that in there?

Representative Beadle: Currently the board has some loose rules within their organization that allows them to credit up to 2,000 hours for military. They also can adopt a rule that decides on that. From the hearing, it sounds like the board is going to work on making their rules more clear. I guess we need to decide if we want it in statute or leave it up to rule making.

Representative Ruby: I guess, if we really hate the new rules that they develop, I move for a **Do Not Pass**.

Representative Lanning: Second.

Roll call was taken for a **Do Not Pass** on HB 1397 with 10 yes, 3 no, 2 absent and Representative Frantsvog is the carrier.

Date: Feb 2, 2015

Roll Call Vote: 1

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1397

House Industry, Business & Labor Committee

Subcommittee Conference Committee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep Ruby Seconded By Rep Laning

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Keiser	x		Representative Lefor	x	
Vice Chairman Sukut	x		Representative Louser	x	
Representative Beadle		x	Representative Ruby	x	
Representative Becker	x		Representative Amerman	x	
Representative Devlin	x		Representative Boschee		x
Representative Frantsvog	x		Representative Hanson		x
Representative Kasper	Ab		Representative M Nelson	Ab	
Representative Laning	x				

Total (Yes) 10 No 3

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep Frantsvog

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1397: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Rep. Keiser, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (10 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1397 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2015 TESTIMONY

HB 1397

1

HB 1397 – Military Experience for Electrician Licensing

House Industry Business and Labor Committee

January 27, 2015 Jan 27, 2015

Representative Thomas Beadle

Good morning Chairman Keiser and members of the House IBL Committee. For the record, my name is Thomas Beadle, State Representative serving District 27 in Fargo. I come before you today in support of HB 1397 dealing with crediting Military Experience for Electrician Licensing.

This bill comes to you on behalf of a constituent of mine who was unable to attend today. They served our nation for many years in the military doing electrical work, and for one reason or another they felt that our current laws were not willing to reward his years of experience practicing as an electrician, and that we would be forcing him to start over as an apprentice. He has since sought employment in a separate contracting area, but still felt that this was an issue that should be corrected for future military personnel who may someday settle back down in North Dakota.

This is a fairly simple bill, as page 1 of the bill is just legislative council cleanup in numbering this section of code, and subsection 2 on page 2 of the bill simply directs the Board of Electricians to adopt rules to provide credit for military service, training or education. It does not state that they must award experience on an equal hour for hour basis, but rather gives them discretion to ensure that their best practices will still be adhered to. In order to help them with this process, I have spelled out two forms that must be submitted to the board for their consideration. The first, DD Form 214 is the form they receive for honorable discharge, and the second, DD Form 2586 is often referred to as a VMET form, which is an automatically generated form by the military that spells out the individuals work experience and training.

For comparison's sake, these forms are required in states like Washington, California, Maine and Texas, all of which award experience based on military experience. While these are far from the only states that offer military experience towards licensing, they kept it simple and established a process that can ultimately work towards many other licensing areas. California, for example, also allows this same protocol to be followed towards licensing Pharmacy Techs, Nurses, Private Investigators, Psychiatric Technicians, Engineers, CPAs, Dentists and Land Surveyors to name a few. Texas allows this to extend towards HVAC contractors, plumbers, Barbers and others. The wording in this bill sets a very general guideline down that could easily be adopted for other professions, but for the purposes of this bill, I limited it to just Electricians. I have attached some of the state's licensing requirements to the

testimony, and can certainly provide more information, including professions that allow Military Credit if needed.

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, this isn't a huge change in code, but does help ensure that we have policies in place to reward our service men and women and ensure that they don't have to start from scratch when they re-enter the private work force. I urge a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1397 and will stand for any questions.

Professional and Financial Regulation

Home → Professional Licensing → List of Professions and Occupations → Electricians' Examining Board → Military Experience and Training

Electricians' Examining Board

MILITARY EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

The Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation wants to make sure that individuals who have military experience and training and who wish to obtain a electricians license receive appropriate credit for their military training and experience. If you have military experience and training in the electrical field and want to become licensed in Maine as a Master, Journeyman or Limited Electrician, please contact Bob LeClair (207-624-8678) or Catherine Carroll (207-624-8605) or email the office before submitting an application. They will explain the application process and assist you in preparing your application for licensure.

Military documentation that may need to accompany your examination application includes:

- A copy of your DD Form 214, Report of Discharge
- A copy of your DD Form 2586, Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET)

Electrician License Types

[Click Here For Step-by-Step Instructions About Getting Your License.](#)

Master Electrician

- Description and how to apply
- Renews every two years based on first licensure date
- Renewal fees and continuing education information

Limited Electrician

- Description and how to apply
- Renews every two years based on first licensure date
- Renewal fees and continuing education information

Journeyman Electrician

- Description and how to apply
- Renews every two years based on first licensure date
- Renewal fees and continuing education information

Email the Board's Permit Staff

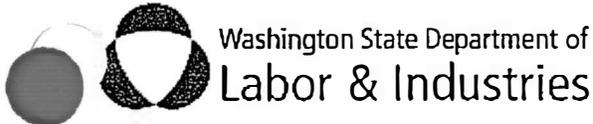
Email the Board's Code Staff

Email the Board

Last Updated: March 3, 2014

Credits

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Electrician

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About Becoming an Electrician

You must have a valid electrician certificate to work in the electrical construction trade in Washington State.

The electrical construction trade includes but is not limited to installing or maintaining electrical wires and equipment that are used for light, heat, or power and installing and maintaining remote control, signaling, power limited, or communication circuits or systems.

What is required to become a general journey level or specialty electrician?

To become a certified **general journey level** or **specialty electrician** in Washington, while you are an [Electrical Trainee](#) you must do the following:

1. Get the **required amount of experience** to qualify for a **general journey level** or **specialty electrician** certificate.
 - ⊕ **General journey level electrician (01)** – Must qualify to work in **all** types (specialties) of electrical work.

8,000 documented hours working as an electrical trainee under the supervision of a certified electrician.

Note: 4,000 hours must be spent working in commercial or industrial installation.
– OR –

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

– OR –

Experience earned in another state.

96 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ **Specialty electrician** – May qualify to work in one or more of the following electrical specialties.

If you meet the requirements for one of these specialties, you can apply for a Specialty Electrician's certificate in that specialty.

⊕ **Residential (02)**

4,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

– OR –

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

– OR –

Experience earned in another state.

48 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ **Pump and irrigation (03)**

4,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

– OR –

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

– OR –

Experience earned in another state.

48 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ **Domestic well (3A)**

2,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

– OR –

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

– OR –

Experience earned in another state.

24 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ Signs (04)

4,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

— OR —

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

— OR —

Experience earned in another state.

48 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ Limited energy system (06)

4,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

— OR —

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

— OR —

Experience earned in another state.

48 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ HVAC/refrigeration system (6A)

4,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

— OR —

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

— OR —

Experience earned in another state.

48 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ HVAC/refrigeration - restricted (6B)

2,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

— OR —

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

— OR —

Experience earned in another state.

24 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ Nonresidential maintenance (07)

4,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

— OR —

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification

— OR —

Experience earned in another state.

48 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ Nonresidential lighting maintenance and lighting retrofit (7A)

2,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

— OR —

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

— OR —

Experience earned in another state.

24 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ Residential maintenance (7B)

2,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

— OR —

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

— OR —

Experience earned in another state.

24 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ Restricted nonresidential maintenance (7C)

2,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.

— OR —

Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.

— OR —

Experience earned in another state.
24 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ Appliance repair (7D)

2,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.
— OR —
Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.
— OR —
Experience earned in another state.
24 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ Equipment repair (7E)

2,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.
— OR —
Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.
— OR —
Experience earned in another state.
24 hours of basic classroom instruction.

⊕ Door, gate, and similar systems (10)

2,000 documented hours working in the specialty under supervision of a certified electrician.
— OR —
Equivalent training or experience in the U.S. military with verification.
— OR —
Experience earned in another state.
24 hours of basic classroom instruction.

2. ... And get the required amount of basic classroom instruction.
3. ... And **apply for** and **pass** the appropriate exam.

What is required to renew a general journey level or specialty electrician certificate?

1. You must take 24 hours of approved Continuing Education course work in the 3 years between

your certificate renewals. [Get more information here.](#)

2. You should apply to renew your certificate before your card expires, even if you don't have all your continuing education credits finished.

Out-of-state experience

If you have done electrical work outside of Washington that you want to present for consideration as qualifying experience, at the time of application you must present appropriate evidence showing that this work experience is equivalent to that required by RCW 19.28.191 and WAC 296-46B-945.

- Submit a notarized letter from your previous employer(s) that indicates the time frame your supervised experience was obtained, the category(type of experience gained), and the number of hours of experience in each category.
 1. Use specific dates for your time frame.
 2. Indicate a specific number of hours worked.-we will not calculate hours per week/year.
 3. Hours must be broken down into the categories they were worked in.
 4. Describe the type of electrical work that was performed (i.e. residential, new commercial/industrial, maintenance, limited energy etc.
 5. Indicate the supervision level (i.e. 75% supervision)
- Submit copies of your previous employer(s) electrical contractor or business license for the state in which your electrical work was performed.
- Submit payroll documentation, such as payroll summary or copies of paystubs, for the time frame you are claiming experience for.

If you are coming from a state that has electrician licensing requirements equivalent to Washington. We will require a notarized letter from the Electrical Board from that state attesting to your status and qualifications.

- The letter must attest that you:
 1. Have an active electrician license.
 2. Type of license.
 3. License was obtained by examination.
 4. Meet the minimum qualificatoins to test. (example 8,000 hours of experience with at least 4,000 in commercial/industrial for general journey level, or 4,000 for specialty such as residential or limited energy.)

Contact the L&I Electrical Program at 360-902-5269 for details **before** coming to Washington.

Meeting the educational requirement when coming from out of state:

If you have completed a formal apprenticeship program that included in class room instruction as part of the curriculum:

1. **Other electrical construction trade apprenticeship:** an apprenticeship completion certificate or letter from the registered training director of the apprenticeship outlining the curriculum in NEC or electrical theory and number of in-class hours.
2. **Nationally recognized contractor/labor organization in the electrical construction trade:** a course completion certificate or letter from the registered training director of the program outlining the curriculum in NEC or electrical theory and number of in-class hours.

Public community or technical colleges or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or technical school: a notarized transcript from the office of the registrar listing the course names, hours, and credits of in-class NEC or electrical theory training completed by the applicant.

Military Experience

1. We cannot evaluate your military experience until you have an electrical training certificate or made application for an electrician examination.
2. Send in a copy of your DD 214 form or current enlistment documentation.
3. Send a printout of your VMET (Verification of Military Training and Experience). Your local recruiting office can help you obtain this information.
4. Any other military transcripts and forms showing electrical construction trade experience.
5. How do I submit experience earned in the military or in a state other than Washington? WAC 296-46B-945

Military/shipyard experience.

After review and approval by the department, an individual who has worked in the **electrical construction trade** performing work described in WAC 296-46B-920 while serving in the armed forces of the United States may be eligible to take the examination for the certificate of competency as a journeyman or specialty electrician. Credit may be allowed for hours worked or training received.

If an individual has military experience in a **specialized electrical field** (e.g., rating) that is similar to a specialty electrician category listed in WAC 296-46B-920, credit may be allowed toward the appropriate specialty certificate. Nuclear, marine, shipyard, shipboard, radar, weapons, aeronautical experience, or similar experience may be acceptable for no more than fifty percent of the minimum required work experience for qualifying for electrician examination.

The department will evaluate and determine whether the submitted experience is related specifically to the electrical construction/maintenance trade regulated by chapter 19.28 RCW.

For more information, see

- Find out more about the Electrical Program.
- Read the Electrical law Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 19.28.
- Read the Electrical rules Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-46B.
- See minimum qualifications for examination in WAC 296-46B-945.
- Join the Electrical Listserv to receive emails with the Electrical Currents Newsletter and other important information.



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Jan 27, 2015

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TESTIMONY ON HB 1397

PRESENTED BY JAMES SCHMIDT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

HB 1397 was introduced without the knowledge of the North Dakota State Electrical Board, and we have not had significant time to study it or confer with its sponsors. It appears the intent is to address a perceived deficiency in the hours of experience the board credits applicants who perform electrical work in the armed forces. Because the board already has an administrative rule allowing acceptance of armed forces electrical work experience, we believe the bill is unnecessary.

Per statute, one of the roles of the electrical board is ensuring that persons applying to take the North Dakota Electrical Exams have the required experience to qualify for licensure. N.D.C.C § 43-09-11 dictates the number of hours required for licensure:

43-09-11. Qualifications. An applicant for an electrician's license must have the following experience and training:

1. For licensure as a master electrician, an applicant must have completed one year's experience as a licensed journeyman electrician.
2. For licensure as a journeyman electrician, an applicant must have:
 - a. Completed eight thousand hours experience in installing and repairing electrical wiring, apparatus, and equipment, which experience may not be obtained in less than three years.
 - b. Effective for an applicant who registered with the board as an apprentice after January 31, 2008, completed at least one of the following:
 - (1) Successfully completed apprenticeship training approved by the federal bureau of apprenticeship and training and completed eight thousand hours' experience in installing and repairing electrical wiring, apparatus, and equipment.
 - (2) Successfully completed an appropriate course of study, which may not be less than two years or the equivalent of two years, at a board-approved institution of higher education and completed eight thousand hours' experience in installing and repairing electrical wiring, apparatus, and equipment. The board may determine equivalent hours of education that may be applied as a credit against the eight thousand hours' experience requirement under this paragraph.
3. For licensure as a class B electrician, eighteen months' experience in farmstead or residential wiring.

Through its administrative rules process, the board has expanded on the types of experience that count toward the 8,000 hour requirement. One of the types of experience the board allows credit for is military experience. That provision is found in N.D.Admin. Code § 24-02-01-02(1)(b), which reads in pertinent part as follows:

24-02-01-02. General statement of policy and interpretative rules....

Credit allowed in other areas may include any combination of the following:...

- (4) A maximum of two thousand hours credit of electrical construction experience gained in the armed forces of the United States which the board has determined is equivalent to work performed under the supervision of a North Dakota licensed electrical contractor.

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The board will be addressing this rule in its next administrative rules process following the legislative session. We will be asking for input from all interested parties and hope to achieve a fair result for all concerned.

We thank the Committee for hearing our concerns and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.