

House Bill 2951

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Electrical and Elevator Board to adopt rules establishing amount of apprenticeship and trainee experience required to qualify for limited residential electrician's license. Eliminates statutory amount requirement. Applies for limited residential electrician's license applications received by Department of Consumer and Business Services on or after January 1, 2010.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to licensing qualifications for electricians; creating new provisions; amending ORS 479.630
3 and 479.680; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 479.630 is amended to read:

6 479.630. If the person pays the applicable application fee required under ORS 479.840 and com-
7 plies with ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and the rules adopted under ORS 455.117 and 479.510 to 479.945,
8 the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall issue:

9 (1) An electrical contractor's license to a person engaging in or carrying on a business of mak-
10 ing electrical installations.

11 (2) A general supervising electrician's license to a person who:

12 (a) Passes a written examination prepared by the Electrical and Elevator Board and adminis-
13 tered by the department; and

14 (b) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had at least four years of expe-
15 rience as a general journeyman electrician or its equivalent, as determined by the board by rule, in
16 installing, maintaining and repairing electrical wires and equipment.

17 (3) A limited supervising electrician's license to a person who qualifies under this subsection.
18 A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to supervise the class of electrical work in-
19 cluded in the branch of the electrical trade and for which the person has passed the examination
20 administered by the department. A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

21 (a) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department; and

22 (b) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had at least four years of spe-
23 cialized experience in a recognized branch of the electrical trade on the journeyman level.

24 (4) A general journeyman electrician's license to a person who:

25 (a) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department; and

26 (b) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that:

27 (A) The person has had at least four years of general experience as an apprentice or its equiv-
28 alent, as determined by the board by rule, in installing, maintaining and repairing electrical wires
29 and equipment, including not fewer than 1,000 hours in wiring on single or multifamily dwelling
30 units; or

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (B) If the person is licensed as a limited residential electrician under subsection (14) of this
 2 section, subsequent to receiving that license, the person has worked for at least two years as a
 3 limited residential electrician and subsequent to those two years has completed an additional two
 4 years' experience as an apprentice or its equivalent, as determined by the board by rule, for that
 5 period of apprenticeship time worked exclusively in installing, maintaining and repairing electrical
 6 wires and equipment in the commercial and industrial branches of the electrical trade under the
 7 supervision of a licensed electrical contractor.

8 (5) A limited journeyman electrician's license to a person who qualifies under this subsection.
 9 A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to perform the class of electrical work in-
 10 cluded in the branch of the electrical trade for which the person has passed the examination ad-
 11 ministered by the department. A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

12 (a) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department; and

13 (b)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, submits proof satisfactory to
 14 the board that the person has had at least four years of specialized experience as an apprentice or
 15 its equivalent, as determined by the board by rule, in a recognized branch of the electrical trade;
 16 or

17 (B) If applying for licensing as a limited journeyman sign electrician or limited journeyman stage
 18 electrician, submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had at least two years of
 19 specialized experience as an apprentice or its equivalent, as determined by the board by rule, in the
 20 sign or stage branch of the electrical trade.

21 (6) A limited elevator journeyman license to a person who qualifies under this subsection. A
 22 person licensed under this subsection is authorized to install, maintain and repair elevators, in-
 23 cluding all electrical and mechanical systems. A person qualifies under this subsection if the person
 24 has completed an elevator apprenticeship program, including both electrical and mechanical training
 25 components, approved by the board by rule and the person submits an application for licensure to
 26 the board in writing. A person issued a license under this subsection is exempt from continuing ed-
 27 ucation requirements established under ORS 455.117 and 479.680.

28 (7) An electrical apprentice's license to a person who has complied with ORS 660.002 to 660.210
 29 as an electrical apprentice.

30 (8) An electrical apprentice's license to a trainee toward a limited residential electrician's li-
 31 cense who has complied with ORS 660.002 to 660.210 as an electrical apprentice.

32 (9) An electrical apprentice's license to a trainee toward a limited journeyman's license in a
 33 recognized branch of the electrical trade who is employed by an employer who also:

34 (a) Employs a holder of either a general journeyman electrician's license or a limited
 35 journeyman electrician's license; and

36 (b) Conducts an electrical training program in a recognized branch of the electrical trade ap-
 37 proved by the board as being a training program that will adequately prepare the trainee for the
 38 limited journeyman's license.

39 (10) A limited maintenance electrician's license to a person who qualifies under this subsection.
 40 A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to maintain, repair and replace electrical in-
 41 stallations, including electrical components, required on the premises of industrial plants, and
 42 maintain, repair and replace electrical installations on systems that are less than 600 volts phase
 43 to phase, including electrical components, required on the premises of commercial office buildings,
 44 buildings occupied by the state or a local government entity or facilities designated by the board.
 45 The following apply to this subsection:

1 (a) A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

2 (A) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department on
3 repair, replacement and maintenance of equipment of the type and nature normally used in an in-
4 dustrial plant, commercial office building or government building and on the use of testing equip-
5 ment; and

6 (B)(i) Completes a two-year training program approved by the board that provides for training
7 and supervision of the trainee or apprentice; or

8 (ii) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had sufficient experience and
9 related educational training in the repair, replacement and maintenance of electrical wiring and
10 equipment of the type and nature used in an industrial plant, commercial office building or govern-
11 ment building, as determined by the board or by an appropriate local apprenticeship committee re-
12 cognized by the State Apprenticeship and Training Council.

13 (b) An annual inspection of the premises upon which electrical work is performed by persons
14 licensed under this subsection shall be made by the electrical inspector for an annual fee determined
15 by the board by rule, based upon the time required for the inspection, payable to the department.

16 (c) A person licensed under this subsection may be employed directly by the owner, or owner's
17 agent, of any government building or commercial office building. A building owner or owner's agent
18 need not be licensed under this section to supervise a limited maintenance electrician.

19 (d) The department, in consultation with the board, shall adopt rules defining government
20 buildings and commercial office buildings subject to this subsection.

21 (11) A limited building maintenance electrician's license to a person who qualifies under this
22 subsection. The following apply to this subsection:

23 (a) A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to maintain, repair and replace the
24 following electrical installations required on the premises of commercial office buildings, buildings
25 occupied by the state or a local government entity or facilities designated by the board in electrical
26 systems not exceeding 300 volts to ground:

27 (A) Electrical appliances;

28 (B) Light switches;

29 (C) Light fixtures;

30 (D) Fans;

31 (E) Receptacles; and

32 (F) Fluorescent ballasts.

33 (b) A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

34 (A) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department on
35 maintenance, repair and replacement of equipment of the type and nature normally used in a com-
36 mercial office building or government building and on the use of testing equipment; and

37 (B) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has:

38 (i) Had sufficient experience in the maintenance, repair and replacement of electrical wiring and
39 equipment of the type and nature normally used in a commercial office building or government
40 building; or

41 (ii) Completed a one-year training course, with classroom and on-the-job training components
42 approved by the board, on the maintenance, repair and replacement of electrical wiring and equip-
43 ment of the type and nature normally used in a commercial office building or government building.

44 (c) An annual inspection of the premises upon which electrical work is performed by persons
45 licensed under this subsection shall be made by the electrical inspector for an annual fee determined

1 by the board by rule, based upon the time required for the inspection, payable to the department,
 2 or the inspection shall be performed under an electrical master permit program.

3 (d) Building owners may perform work regulated by this subsection and for which a license is
 4 required under this subsection without obtaining a license.

5 (e) A person who owns more than 50 percent of a corporation that controls a building is a
 6 building owner.

7 (f) A person licensed under this subsection may be employed by the owner of a commercial office
 8 building or the owner's agent. A building owner or owner's agent need not be licensed under this
 9 section to supervise a limited building maintenance electrician.

10 (12) A limited maintenance specialty contractor license to a person who qualifies under this
 11 subsection. A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to engage in the electrical work
 12 related to the repair, service, maintenance, installation or replacement of existing, built-in or per-
 13 manently connected appliances, fluorescent ballasts or similar equipment and to employ individuals
 14 to engage in that work. This subsection does not authorize the installation of appliances, ballasts
 15 or other equipment if there is no existing installation of similar equipment. A person qualifies under
 16 this subsection if the person:

17 (a) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had sufficient experience in the
 18 type of work permitted under the license issued under this subsection; and

19 (b) Maintains with the board a current list of all individuals employed by the person to engage
 20 in work permitted under this subsection.

21 (13) A limited pump installation specialty contractor license to a person who qualifies under this
 22 subsection. A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to engage in electrical work re-
 23 lated to the testing, repair, service, maintenance, installation or replacement of new or existing
 24 pump equipment for potable or irrigation water systems, sump pumps, effluent pumps and ground
 25 water pumps on residential and agricultural property and to employ individuals to engage in such
 26 work. A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

27 (a) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had sufficient experience in the
 28 type of work permitted under the license issued under this subsection; and

29 (b) Maintains with the board a current list of all individuals employed by the person to engage
 30 in work permitted under this subsection.

31 (14) A limited residential electrician's license to a person who qualifies under this subsection.
 32 A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to perform the class of electrical work in-
 33 cluded in the branch of the electrical trade for which the person has passed the examination ad-
 34 ministered by the department and approved by the board. However, a person licensed under this
 35 subsection shall perform the electrical work allowed by the license only on single and multifamily
 36 dwelling units not exceeding three floors above grade. For purposes of this subsection, the first floor
 37 of a building is the floor that is designed for human habitation and that has 50 percent or more of
 38 its perimeter level with or above finished grade of the exterior wall line. A person qualifies under
 39 this subsection if the person:

40 (a) Has received the same number of hours of electrical safety training as required by rule for
 41 an electrical apprentice or its equivalent and has received training in electrical theory;

42 (b) Submits documented proof to the board [*of at least two years of*] **that the person has the**
 43 **amount of** apprenticeship or trainee experience in residential wiring of single and multifamily
 44 dwelling units **required by the board by rule**, or [*its equivalent, as*] **equivalent experience as de-**
 45 **termined by the board by rule; and**

1 (c) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department.

2 (15) A limited renewable energy contractor license to a person who:

3 (a) Employs at least one full-time renewable energy technician; and

4 (b) Does not engage in electrical work other than work that may be performed by a limited
5 renewable energy technician. A limited renewable energy contractor may not make, direct, supervise
6 or control the making of an electrical installation unless the contractor is licensed for that activity.

7 (16) A limited renewable energy technician license to a person who qualifies under this sub-
8 section. A person qualifies for licensing as a limited renewable energy technician if the person
9 completes a two-year apprenticeship program and passes an examination approved by the board. A
10 person licensed under this subsection may, while in the employ of a licensed electrical contractor
11 or a limited renewable energy contractor:

12 (a) Install, maintain, replace or repair electrical wiring and electrical products that convey or
13 operate on renewable electrical energy not exceeding 25 kilowatts AC; and

14 (b) Make electrical installations not exceeding 25 kilowatts AC:

15 (A) On devices using renewable energy involving wind, solar energy systems, micro-
16 hydroelectricity, photovoltaic systems or fuel cells.

17 (B) Up to the load side of an inverter.

18 (C) To connect generators that are sized to facilitate the inverter in an off-grid system.

19 **SECTION 2.** ORS 479.680 is amended to read:

20 479.680. The Electrical and Elevator Board:

21 (1) Shall establish, by rule under ORS 455.117, a program of continuing education necessary for
22 renewal of licenses. The board may approve programs for continuing education that meet standards
23 for continuing education established by the board under this subsection.

24 (2) Shall adopt any rules necessary to carry out the duties of the board under ORS 479.510 to
25 479.945 and 479.995.

26 **(3) Shall adopt rules establishing the amount of apprenticeship and trainee experience**
27 **necessary to qualify for a limited residential electrician's license under ORS 479.630.**

28 [(3)] (4) Shall [establish] **adopt** rules setting forth equivalent experience necessary to qualify for
29 a journeyman license under ORS 479.630.

30 [(4)] (5) Shall establish, by rule, procedures and standards necessary to approve testing labora-
31 tories under ORS 479.730 and 479.760.

32 [(5)] (6) May establish exemptions by rule according to authority granted under ORS 479.540.

33 **SECTION 3. The amendments to ORS 479.630 by section 1 of this 2009 Act apply to limited**
34 **residential electrician's license applications received by the Department of Consumer and**
35 **Business Services on or after January 1, 2010.**

36 **SECTION 4. This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
37 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect**
38 **on its passage.**

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