
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1968

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Simpson, Conway and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 2/28/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to sprinkler fitters; adding a new chapter to Title
2 18 RCW; prescribing penalties; and providing an effective date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply
5 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

6 (1) "Certificate" means a certificate of competency granted by the
7 director under the terms of this chapter, and is valid within the state
8 and all political subdivisions, and meets all of the requirements for
9 license or certification that may be applied by the political
10 subdivisions.

11 (2) "Contractor" means any person, corporation, or other entity,
12 licensed under chapter 18.160 RCW, which performs any work covered by
13 the provisions of this chapter.

14 (3) "Director" means the state director of fire protection.

15 (4) "Fire protection sprinkler fitting" means installing, altering,
16 and repairing sprinkler, standpipe, hose, or other hazard systems for
17 fire protection purposes that are an assembly of piping or conduit
18 beginning at the connection to the primary water supply within a

1 building, sprinkler tank heaters, air lines, and all tanks and pumps
2 attached thereto.

3 (5) "Journey-level sprinkler fitter" means any person who has been
4 issued a certificate by the director as provided by this chapter.

5 (6) "NFPA 13-D" means the standard in use by the national fire
6 protection association for the installation of fire protection
7 sprinkler systems in one and two-family dwellings and manufactured
8 homes whenever the provisions of this chapter are applied.

9 (7) "NFPA 13-R" means the standard in use by the national fire
10 protection association for the installation of fire protection
11 sprinkler systems in residential dwellings up to and including four
12 stories in height whenever the provisions of this chapter are applied.

13 (8) "Person" means a natural person, including an owner, manager,
14 partner, officer, employee, or occupant.

15 (9) "Residential sprinkler fitter" means anyone who has been issued
16 a certificate by the director limited to installation, maintenance, and
17 repair of the fire protection sprinkler system of residential
18 occupancies as defined by NFPA 13-D and NFPA 13-R.

19 (10) "Trainee" means anyone who has been issued a training
20 certificate by the director who is learning the fire protection
21 sprinkler fitting trade under the direct supervision of a journey-level
22 sprinkler fitter or residential sprinkler fitter.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) This chapter shall be administered by
24 the director.

25 (2) The director may adopt rules necessary for the administration
26 of this chapter.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) No person may engage in the trade of
28 fire protection sprinkler fitting without having a valid journey-level
29 sprinkler fitter certificate, residential sprinkler fitter certificate,
30 training certificate, or temporary certificate, with the exception of
31 a certified plumber installing a residential fire protection sprinkler
32 system connected to potable water requiring a plumbing certificate.

33 (2) No contractor may employ a person in violation of subsection
34 (1) of this section to perform fire protection sprinkler fitting work.

35 (3) A person found by the director to have committed an infraction
36 under this chapter shall be assessed a monetary penalty as set by rule.

1 (4) Each day in which a person engages in the trade of fire
2 protection sprinkler fitting in violation of subsection (1) of this
3 section or employs a person in violation of subsection (2) of this
4 section is considered a separate infraction.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director shall adopt a written
6 examination to be administered to applicants for certificates.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Every applicant for a certificate shall
8 pay an examination fee and satisfactorily pass an examination as
9 provided by rule.

10 (2) Every applicant for a certificate shall apply to the director
11 on an application form provided by the director and pay the application
12 fee as provided by rule.

13 (3)(a) Every applicant for a journey-level sprinkler fitter
14 certificate shall provide evidence to the director on a form provided
15 by the director of at least eight thousand hours of trade-related fire
16 protection sprinkler fitting experience.

17 (b) Every applicant for a residential sprinkler fitter certificate
18 shall provide evidence to the director on a form provided by the
19 director of at least four thousand hours of trade-related fire
20 protection sprinkler fitting or residential sprinkler fitting
21 experience.

22 (4) Every applicant for a training certificate shall provide
23 evidence to the director on a form provided by the director of trade-
24 related employment by a contractor.

25 (5)(a) The director shall grant a journey-level sprinkler fitter
26 certificate without examination to any applicant who, during the ninety
27 days following the effective date of this section, submits an
28 application for such certification and evidence of his or her
29 employment as a journey-level sprinkler fitter for a period of not less
30 than eight thousand hours.

31 (b) The director shall grant a residential sprinkler fitter
32 certificate without examination to any applicant who, during the ninety
33 days following the effective date of this section, submits an
34 application for such certification and evidence of his or her
35 employment as a journey-level sprinkler fitter or a residential
36 sprinkler fitter for a period of not less than four thousand hours.

1 (6) The director may grant a certificate without examination to any
2 applicant who is a journey-level sprinkler fitter or residential
3 sprinkler fitter from a state whose requirements for certification are
4 at least substantially equivalent to the requirements of this state,
5 and which extends the same privileges of reciprocity to journey-level
6 sprinkler fitters or residential sprinkler fitters from this state.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) A certificate expires on December 31st.

8 (2) The certificate shall be renewed every other year.

9 (3) Before the expiration date of the certificate, every applicant
10 shall reapply to the director on an application form provided by the
11 director and pay the application fee as provided by rule.

12 (4) If a certificate is not renewed before its expiration date, an
13 applicant must:

14 (a) Apply to the director on an application form provided by the
15 director;

16 (b) Pay an application fee to the director as provided by rule;

17 (c) Pay an examination fee as provided by rule; and

18 (d) Successfully pass the written examination required by this
19 chapter.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** All receipts from fees and charges or from
21 the money generated by the rules adopted under this chapter shall be
22 deposited into the fire protection contractor license fund created in
23 RCW 18.160.050 and used for the purposes authorized under this chapter.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** An authorized representative of the director
25 may investigate alleged violations of this chapter. Upon request of an
26 authorized representative, a person performing fire protection
27 sprinkler fitting or residential sprinkler fitting work must produce
28 evidence of a certificate issued by the director in accordance with
29 this chapter. Failure to produce such evidence is an infraction as
30 provided by section 3 of this act.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A person wishing to appeal a determination
32 of infraction under this chapter must file an appeal within twenty days
33 of the date of the notice of infraction in accordance with chapter
34 34.05 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The director shall immediately suspend any
2 certificate issued under this chapter if the holder has been certified
3 pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health
4 services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order. If
5 the person has continued to meet all other requirements for
6 certification during the suspension, reissuance of the certificate
7 shall be automatic upon the director's receipt of a release issued by
8 the department of social and health services stating that the person is
9 in compliance with the order.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act
11 constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** This act takes effect January 1, 2009.

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