

West's Wisconsin Statutes Annotated

Employment, Compensation and Mining (Ch. 101 to 109)

Chapter 101. Department of Safety and Professional Services--Regulation of Industry, Buildings and Safety

Subchapter IV. Electrical Wiring and Electricians

W.S.A. Ch. 101, Subch. IV, Refs & Annos

Currentness

W. S. A. Ch. 101, Subch. IV, Refs & Annos, WI ST Ch. 101, Subch. IV, Refs & Annos

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Subchapter IV. Electrical Wiring and Electricians (Refs & Annos)

W.S.A. 101.80

101.80. Definitions

Effective: February 2, 2018

[Currentness](#)

In this subchapter:

(1g) “Electric cooperative” means a cooperative association organized under ch. 185 for the purpose of generating, distributing, or furnishing electric energy at retail or wholesale to its members only.

(1j) “Electricity provider” means a public utility, an electric cooperative, or a wholesale merchant plant operator.

(1m) “Electrical wiring” means all equipment, wiring, material, fittings, devices, appliances, fixtures, and apparatus used for the production, modification, regulation, control, distribution, utilization, or safeguarding of electrical energy for mechanical, chemical, cosmetic, heating, lighting, or similar purposes, as specified under the state electrical wiring code. “Electrical wiring” does not include the equipment, wiring, material, fittings, devices, appliances, fixtures, and apparatus used by a public utility, an electric cooperative, or a wholesale merchant operator for the purpose of generating, transmitting, distributing, or controlling heat, light, power, or natural gas to its customers or members.

(1p) “Manufacturing facility” means a facility assessed as manufacturing property under [s. 70.995](#).

(1r) “Municipality” means a city, town, village, or county.

(3) “Public utility” has the meaning given in [s. 196.01\(5\)](#).

(4) “State electrical wiring code” means the rules promulgated under [s. 101.82\(1\)](#) for electrical wiring.

(5) “Wholesale merchant plant operator” means the operator of a wholesale merchant plant, as defined in [s. 196.491\(1\)\(w\)](#).

Credits

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W.S.A. 101.81

101.81. Repealed in part and renumbered in part by L.1975, c. 274, §§ 3, 4

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W.S.A. 101.82

101.82. Departmental duties

Effective: April 18, 2018

[Currentness](#)

The department shall:

(1) Promulgate by rule a state electrical wiring code that establishes standards for installing, repairing, and maintaining electrical wiring. The rules shall include separate standards, established in consultation with the uniform dwelling code council, that apply only to electrical wiring in camping units that are set in a fixed location in a campground for which a permit is issued under s. 97.67, that contain a sleeping place, and that are used for seasonal overnight camping. The rules do not apply to electrical wiring in primitive rural hunting cabins, as defined in [s. 101.61\(3\)](#). Where feasible, the rules shall reflect nationally recognized standards.

(1g) Regulate all of the following types of electricians:

(a) Master electricians, including residential master electricians.

(b) Journeyman electricians, including residential journeyman electricians and industrial journeyman electricians.

(c) Electrical apprentices, including residential electrical apprentices and industrial electrical apprentices.

(d) Registered electricians.

(1m) Promulgate rules that establish criteria for the enrollment of registered electricians and for the registration of electrical apprentices.

(1n) Promulgate rules that establish procedures for the enrollment of registered electricians, the registration of electrical apprentices, and the licensing of journeyman electricians and master electricians.

(1r) Promulgate rules that establish requirements for the supervision of registered electricians. Registered electricians must be supervised by licensed journeyman or master electricians.

(1v) Promulgate rules that establish criteria and procedures for the licensing of electrical contractors.

(2) Promulgate rules that establish criteria and procedures for the certification of electrical inspectors for the purpose of inspecting electrical wiring.

(2m) Promulgate rules that establish standards and a process for the inspection of electrical wiring, including the inspection of electrical wiring for which a municipality does not provide inspection under [s. 101.86\(1\)](#).

(3r) Promulgate rules that establish criteria and a process for the suspension or revocation of registrations issued to registered electricians, licenses issued to electricians and electrical contractors, and certifications issued to electrical inspectors.

(4) Establish by rule a schedule of fees sufficient to defray the costs incurred under this subchapter.

Credits

<<For credits, see Historical Note field.>>

W. S. A. 101.82, WI ST 101.82

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W.S.A. 101.84

101.84. Departmental powers

Effective: April 18, 2018

[Currentness](#)

The department may:

(1) Hold hearings on any matter relating to this subchapter and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence at the hearings, except that the department shall conduct hearings related to occupational licenses, as defined in [s. 101.02\(1\)\(a\)2.](#), as provided in [s. 101.022](#).

(3) Promulgate rules to differentiate the scope of installation, repair, or maintenance of electrical wiring that may be performed by electrical contractors, registered electricians, journeyman electricians, master electricians, and any additional types of electricians recognized under sub. (5).

(5) The department may promulgate rules that recognize and regulate different types and subtypes of electricians that are in addition to those specified in [s. 101.82\(1g\)](#) and that establish criteria and procedures for enrolling, registering, or licensing these electricians.

Credits

<<For credits, see Historical Note field.>>

W. S. A. 101.84, WI ST 101.84

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W.S.A. 101.86

101.86. Municipal authority

Effective: July 14, 2015

[Currentness](#)

(1) Municipalities may:

(a) Enact an electrical code or otherwise exercise jurisdiction over electrical wiring and inspection of electrical wiring by enactment of ordinances, provided that the electrical code or ordinance strictly conforms with the state electrical wiring code promulgated by the department under [s. 101.82\(1\)](#). A county ordinance shall apply in any city, village or town which has not enacted such an ordinance.

(b) Under [s. 66.0301](#), jointly exercise the jurisdiction granted under par. (a).

(c) By ordinance, establish and collect fees to defray the cost of jurisdiction exercised under par. (a) or (b).

(d) By ordinance, provide remedies and penalties for violation of the jurisdiction exercised under par. (a) or (b).

(3)(a) The cost of inspection services provided by any county that has enacted an ordinance under sub. (1), if not defrayed by fees, shall be charged to or taxed against the property within those cities, villages, and towns in the county that have not enacted an ordinance under sub. (1).

(b) No part of the cost of inspection services, if not defrayed by fees, may be charged to or taxed against the property within any city, village, or town that has enacted an ordinance under sub. (1).

Credits

<<For credits, see Historical Note field.>>

W. S. A. 101.86, WI ST 101.86

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W.S.A. 101.861

101.861. Municipal licensing authority

Effective: March 28, 2013

[Currentness](#)

(1) Any ordinance enacted by a municipality that relates to licensure or certification of electrical contractors or electricians pursuant to the municipality's authority under [s. 101.865, 2005 stats.](#), or [s. 101.87, 2005 stats.](#), and that is in existence on March 19, 2008, shall remain in effect until April 1, 2014, but may not be amended or repealed during this time period. Beginning on April 1, 2014, such an ordinance is no longer in effect, and municipalities may no longer impose any registration, licensing, or certification requirements on electrical contractors, electricians, or electrical inspectors.

(2) Beginning on March 28, 2013, and ending on March 31, 2014, all of the following apply:

(a) Any municipal ordinance that was in existence on March 19, 2008, and that imposed any licensing, registration, or certification requirements on electrical contractors, electricians, or electrical inspectors shall not apply to electrical contractors, electricians, or electrical inspectors who are licensed, registered, or certified by the department under this subchapter.

(b) A municipality that had an ordinance in existence on March 19, 2008, for licensing, registering, or certifying electrical contractors, electricians, or electrical inspectors may issue and renew licenses, registrations, or certifications but such licenses, registrations, and certifications are not valid after March 31, 2014.

Credits

<<For credits, see Historical Note field.>>

W. S. A. 101.861, WI ST 101.861

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W.S.A. 101.862

101.862. License or registration required

Effective: July 14, 2015

[Currentness](#)

- (1) No person may engage in the business of installing, repairing, or maintaining electrical wiring unless the person is licensed as an electrical contractor by the department.
- (2) No person may install, repair, or maintain electrical wiring unless the person is licensed as an electrician by the department or unless the person is enrolled as a registered electrician by the department.
- (3) No person who is not a master electrician may install, repair, or maintain electrical wiring unless a master electrician is at all times responsible for the person's work.
- (4) Subsections (1) to (3) do not apply to any of the following:
- (a) A residential property owner who installs, repairs, or maintains electrical wiring on premises that the property owner owns and occupies as a residence, unless a license or registration issued by the department is required by local ordinance.
 - (am) A person engaged in installing electrical wiring within an existing industrial facility or existing manufacturing facility owned or leased by the person or by an entity for which the person is an agent or employee.
 - (b) A person engaged in maintaining or repairing electrical wiring within an existing facility or on premises owned or leased by the person or by an entity for which the person is an agent or employee.
 - (c) A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining electrical wiring, apparatus, or equipment for elevators and escalators.
 - (d) A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining equipment or systems that operate at 100 volts or less.
 - (e) A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining an electronic system designed to monitor a premises for the presence of an emergency, to issue an alarm for an emergency, or to detect and summon aid for an emergency.

(f) A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining electrical wiring of facilities that support telecommunications service, as defined in [s. 182.017\(1g\)\(cq\)](#), that is provided by a telecommunications provider, as defined in [s. 196.01\(8p\)](#).

(g) A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining manufactured equipment or utilization equipment, including ballasts, electric signs and luminaires, or any other manufactured system that is designed to provide a function that is not primarily electrical in nature if the installation, repair, or maintenance only involves the modification or installation of conductors that are considered part of the equipment or system under this paragraph. For purposes of this paragraph, any conductor going from the disconnecting point or the nearest junction, pull, or device box to the manufactured equipment or utilization equipment or the manufactured system is considered part of the equipment or system.

(h) A person engaged in installing electrical wiring for components of a manufactured home, as defined in [s. 101.91\(2\)](#), or a manufactured building, as defined in [s. 101.71\(6\)](#), while the manufactured home or the manufactured building is at or in the facility at which it is being manufactured.

(i) A person employed by an electricity provider, or a subcontractor of an electricity provider, who installs, repairs, or maintains electrical wiring for equipment that is installed in the normal course of providing utility services by the electricity provider.

(j) A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining electrical wiring that provides lighting or signals for public thoroughfares and for public airports.

(k) A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining electric lines on the utility side of substations and other distribution facilities owned or operated by customers or members of electricity providers.

(L) A person employed by an electricity provider, or a subcontractor of an electricity provider, who installs, repairs, or maintains primary voltage electric facilities that are owned by the electricity provider's customers or members and that operate at greater than 600 volts.

(m) A person employed by an electricity provider, or a subcontractor of an electricity provider, who restores service during an emergency.

(n) A person who installs a replacement for an existing switch or outlet if the replacement switch or outlet has a rating of not more than 20 amperes.

(p) A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining a private on-site wastewater treatment system, as defined in [s. 145.01\(12\)](#), if the activity only involves installing or modifying a conductor going from the system's junction, pull, or device box to the nearest disconnecting point and the conductor is buried with the system.

(q) A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining a pump for a well if the activity only involves installing or modifying a conductor going from the pump's junction, pull, or device box to the nearest disconnecting point and the conductor is buried with the pump.

(5)(a) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply to a person who was born on or before January 1, 1956, and who has at least 15 years of experience in installing, repairing, or maintaining electrical wiring, subject to par. (b).

(b) The department shall promulgate rules establishing criteria and procedures for issuing licenses to electricians who were born on or before January 1, 1956, and who have at least 15 years of experience in installing, repairing, or maintaining electrical wiring. Upon promulgation of these rules, an electrician who meets these age and experience requirements may not install, repair, or maintain electrical wiring unless he or she is licensed in compliance with these rules or is otherwise licensed or registered as an electrician under this subchapter.

(6)(a) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply to a person who installs electrical wiring, without receiving payment or other consideration, in a new one-family or 2-family dwelling that is being constructed by a qualified nonprofit corporation.

(b) For purposes of par. (a), a qualified nonprofit corporation is one that meets all of the following conditions:

1. The corporation is described in [section 501\(c\)\(3\) of the Internal Revenue Code](#)¹ and is exempt from federal income tax under [section 501\(a\) of the Internal Revenue Code](#)².

2. The corporation has as its purpose the construction and rehabilitation of residential dwellings in a specific community or area.

Credits

<<For credits, see Historical Note field.>>

Footnotes

¹ 26 U.S.C.A. § 501(c)(3).

² 26 U.S.C.A. § 501(a).

W. S. A. 101.862, WI ST 101.862

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W.S.A. 101.865

101.865. Repealed by 2007 Act 63, § 31, eff. March 19, 2008

Effective: March 19, 2008

[Currentness](#)

Credits

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W. S. A. 101.865, WI ST 101.865

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W.S.A. 101.868

101.868. Requirements for master electricians

Effective: March 21, 2014

[Currentness](#)

(1) An applicant for licensure as a master electrician shall have at least one of the following qualifications:

(a) A bachelor's degree or master's degree in electrical engineering, followed by passage of an examination required by the department.

(b) Twelve months of experience in installing, repairing, and maintaining electrical wiring while being licensed as a journeyman electrician, followed by passage of an examination required by the department.

(c) Experience in installing, repairing, and maintaining electrical wiring during a period of not less than 60 months, with at least 10,000 hours of experience over that period, followed by passage of an examination required by the department.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to any residential master electrician or to any other type of master electrician that may be recognized under [s. 101.84\(5\)](#). The qualifying criteria required for licensing residential master electricians and any other such type of master electrician shall be established by the department by rule.

Credits

<<For credits, see Historical Note field.>>

W. S. A. 101.868, WI ST 101.868

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W.S.A. 101.87

101.87. Requirements for journeyman electricians

Effective: March 21, 2014

[Currentness](#)

(1) An applicant for licensure as a journeyman electrician shall have at least one of the following qualifications:

(a) Completion of a construction electrician apprenticeship program in installing, repairing, and maintaining electrical wiring that has a duration of at least 3 years and that is approved by the U.S. department of labor or by the department of workforce development, followed by passage of an examination required by the department.

(b) Experience in installing, repairing, and maintaining electrical wiring during a period of not less than 48 months, with at least 8,000 hours of experience over that period, followed by passage of an examination required by the department.

(2m) For purposes of meeting the requirement relating to experience under sub. (1)(b), a degree or diploma from a 2-year program in a school of electrical engineering or from a 2-year program in an accredited technical or vocational school in an electrical-related program shall be accepted by the department as being equivalent to 12 months and 2,000 hours of experience.

(3m) Subsection (1) does not apply to any residential or industrial journeyman electricians or to any other type of journeyman electrician that may be recognized under s. 101.84(5). The qualifying criteria required for licensing residential and industrial journeyman electricians and any other such type of journeyman electrician shall be established by the department by rule.

Credits

<<For credits, see Historical Note field.>>

W. S. A. 101.87, WI ST 101.87

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W.S.A. 101.874

101.874. Reciprocity

Effective: March 21, 2014

[Currentness](#)

(1) In this section, “credential” means a registration, license, certification, or other approval to perform or inspect electrical work.

(2) The department may enter into a reciprocal agreement with another state under which credentials issued to electricians, electrical apprentices, electrical contractors, and electrical inspectors by either state are recognized as comparable credentials by the other state. Under the agreement, the department may recognize credentials from the other state only if the education, experience, and examination requirements in the other state are at least equivalent to the education, experience, and examination requirements for being issued credentials under this subchapter.

(3) Upon entering into an agreement under this section, the department may issue a credential only if all of the following apply:

(a) The individual seeking the credential submits an application and pays the applicable fee established under [s. 101.82\(4\)](#).

(b) The individual holds a valid comparable credential issued by the other state.

Credits

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W. S. A. 101.874, WI ST 101.874

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W.S.A. 101.875

101.875. Inspections

Effective: March 21, 2014

[Currentness](#)

(1) All inspections of electrical wiring shall be performed by inspectors certified by the department.

(2) Any rule promulgated under [s. 101.82\(2m\)](#) may not require the inspection of any of the installation, repair, or maintenance of electrical wiring within an existing industrial facility or an existing manufacturing facility unless the plan for the installation, repair, or maintenance is required to be examined under [s. 101.12\(2\)](#) by the department or by a municipality that has its examinations accepted by the department under [s. 101.12\(3\)\(a\)](#), [\(am\)](#), or [\(b\)](#).

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W. S. A. 101.875, WI ST 101.875

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W.S.A. 101.88

101.88. Compliance and penalties

Effective: March 19, 2008

[Currentness](#)

(1) Every person installing, repairing, or maintaining electrical wiring shall use materials, methods, and equipment that are in conformance with the rules promulgated by the department under this subchapter.

(3) Any person who violates this subchapter or any rule promulgated under this subchapter shall forfeit to the state not less than \$25 nor more than \$500 for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

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