



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: April 04, 2023

TIME: 8:31 AM

WSR 23-08-066

Agency: Department of Labor & Industries (L&I)

Subject of possible rule making: Electrical Rules - Code Adoption. Chapter 296-46B WAC, Electrical safety standards, administration, and installation, excluding WAC 296-46B-945, Qualifying for master, journey level, specialty electrician examinations.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: Chapter 19.28 RCW Electricians and Electrical Installations including RCW 19.28.031 and 19.28.251.

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: L&I's Electrical Program is reviewing the electrical rules under chapter 296-46B WAC and new safety codes from the 2023 edition of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 70, the National Electrical Code (NEC). The purpose of this review is to consider amendments based on the 2023 NEC safety codes, update and clarify existing rules, and make housekeeping and other rule changes. The 2023 NEC (NFPA 70-2023) would replace the current 2020 NEC (NFPA 70-2020) standards.

The electrical rules are reviewed every three years, or each code cycle, to ensure the rules are consistent with national electrical safety standards and industry practice. The review process provides Washington's electrical stakeholders the opportunity to review the existing rules, submit proposals for changes to the rules, and provide recommendations to the department regarding adoption of the rules, prior to NEC implementation.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: None

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study

Other (describe) Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rules and formulation of the proposed rules before publication by contacting the individual listed below. The public can also participate after amendments are proposed by providing written comments and/or testimony during the public hearing and comment process. All rule proposals will be reviewed by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Electrical Board.

L&I is seeking input from interested parties to be used in the formulation of the proposed electrical rules. Interested parties may submit rule proposals for changes to the rules through May 20, 2023.

The department is also appointing a general TAC made up of experts and interested group representatives to review and make recommendations on proposals from the electrical industry. Interested parties may submit an application to become a TAC member and participate in the rules development process through May 20, 2023.

For more information on this rulemaking, visit the L&I website at: <https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/laws-rules-policies#rule-development> or contact the individual below.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

(If necessary)

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Phone:

Fax:

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Email:

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Other:

Other:

Additional comments:

Date: April 4, 2023

Name: Joel Sacks

Title: Director

Signature:

