

RE: Licensing Task Force; Information Request
To: Erin Sullivan
CC: Kevin Bragg, Deb Matteucci
From: Kelly Welsh
Date: 7/1/26

Objective: Provide requested information for the following - “Can staff provide a side-by-side comparison of Montana versus **neighboring states on plumbing and electrical experience-hour and endorsement requirements?**

Neighboring States: East to West

North Dakota
South Dakota
Wyoming
Idaho
Oregon
Washington

Electrical Licensing:

Residential License requirements- MT requires completion of residential electrical apprenticeship program consisting of at least **4000 hours practical experience legally obtained and 288 hours of required related instruction/classroom education.**

Journeyman License requirements- MT requires completion of journeyman electrical apprenticeship program consisting of at least **8000 hours practical experience legally obtained and 576 hours of required related instruction/classroom education.**

Standard “approved” United States electrical journeyman apprenticeship programs consist of a minimum of 8000 experience hours/4 years, (supervised by a licensed electrician) and 144 hours of related instruction per year (total 576); standard approved journeyman electrical apprenticeships are generally four years in length, most states offer formal apprenticeship completion as a pathway to the licensure exam. Most states offer a state specific exam, based on NEC effective in the state and state specific laws and rules.

Some states offer lower-level electrical licensing or registrations which may require less experience and related instruction than the general journeyman license; MT offers the residential electrical license and an applicable apprenticeship program consisting of 4000 hours/2 years and 288 hours related instruction.

State	North Dakota	South Dakota	Wyoming	Idaho	Oregon	Washington
Required electrical apprenticeship registration &/or state registered trainee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Journeyman Hours Requirement to exam	Supervised 4 yrs/8000 hours	Supervised 4 yrs/8000 hours	Supervised 4 yrs/8000 hours	Supervised 4 yrs/8000 hours	Supervised 4 yrs/8000 hours	Supervised 4 yrs/8000 hours
Journeyman Related Instruction Requirement/ Classroom education to exam	None; 576 hours for apprenticeship completion	None; 576 hours for apprenticeship completion.	None; 576 hours for apprenticeship completion	None; 576 hours for apprenticeship completion	576 hours; either apprenticeship or other trainee school required.	None; 576 hours for apprenticeship completion
Other journeyman allowable pathways to licensure exam outside of registered state apprenticeship completion	Yes; documented 4 yrs/8000 supervised experience hours & passage of state exam	Yes; documented 4 yrs/8000 supervised experience hours & passage of state exam	Yes; documented 4 yrs/8000 supervised experience hours & passage of state exam	Yes; documented 4 yrs/8000 supervised experience hours & passage of state exam	Yes; alternative pathway-completion of 576 hours of required classroom training (official transcripts) and 8000 hours of experience and passage of state exam	Yes; 8000 hours supervised experience and passage of state exam
Residential Equivalent License Option	No; however, ND offers a Class B Electrical license for residential and farmstead wiring.	No; however, SD offers a Class B Electrical license for residential, farm and specific light commercial settings.	No	Yes; ID residential is SE to MT residential -supervised electrical installation in 1-2 family dwelling, townhouses up to 3 stories high.	Yes; OR residential is SE to MT residential -limited to 1,2,3 family dwelling units. No other recognized lower-level licensure.	Yes; WA residential is SE to MT residential . WA also offers other lower-level electrical specialty licenses: limited energy/low voltage, signs, HVAC.

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Journeyman Equivalent License Option	Yes; is SE to MT EJ; journeyman electrician	Yes; is SE to MT EJ; journeyman electrician	Yes; is SE to MT EJ; journeyman electrician	Yes; is SE to MT EJ; electrical journeyman	Yes; is SE to MT EJ; general journeyman electrician	Yes; is SE to MT EJ; general journey level 01
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Attachments:



2025 ELE SE SS Residential.pdf

- Board of Electrician's SE determinations for residential licensure.



2025 ELE SE SS Journeyman.pdf

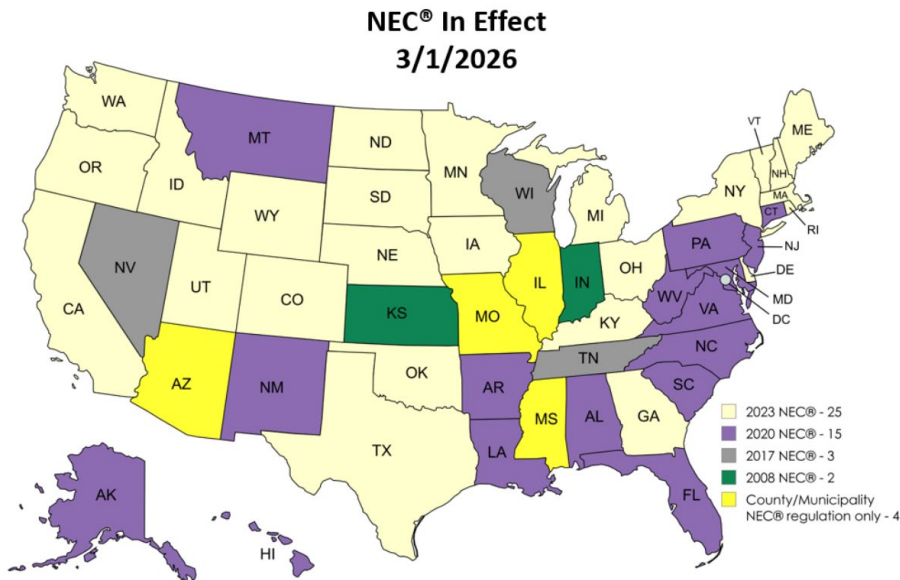
- Board of Electrician's SE determinations for journeyman licensure.



3.3.2026 Recip Comparison Updated

- NERA Member States; journeyman side by side comparison.

NEC in Effect Map



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Application report 01/01/2025-01/01/2026- “out of state applicants”; most common out of state applicants are from the following states: **Highlighted** states information provided in table.

MT applicants make up more than half of the total number of applicants per year.

California (5)
 Colorado (6)
Idaho (46)
 Minnesota (6)
North Dakota (20)
 Oregon (15)
South Dakota (1)
Texas (16)
 Utah (4)
Washington (36)
Wyoming (12)

State	California	Colorado	Minnesota	Texas	Utah
Required electrical apprenticeship registration &/or state registered trainee	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Journeyman Hours Requirement to exam	Supervised 4 years full time/8000 hours	Supervised 4 years full time/8000 hours	Supervised 48 months	Master supervised 4 years/8000 hours	Supervised 4 years/8000 hours
Journeyman Related Instruction Requirement/ Classroom education to exam	None; 576 hours for apprenticeship completion	288 hours classroom instruction	None; 288 hours classroom instruction for apprenticeship completion	None; 576 hours for apprenticeship completion	576 hours classroom for apprenticeship completion
Other journeyman allowable pathways to licensure exam outside of registered	Yes; electrical trainee 8000 OJT supervised	Yes; or an equivalent combination of classroom instruction and OJT; trade school degree	Yes; verified 48 months supervised work experience and passage of state exam	Yes; verified 8000 hours supervised experience and passage of state exam	Yes; alternatively, to apprenticeship completion 16,000 supervised

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<u>state apprenticeship completion</u>		can reduce the required hours of OJT			experience and passage of state exam
Journeyman Equivalent License Option	Yes; if completed an apprenticeship and took state exam	Yes; if completed an apprenticeship and took state exam	No	No; however, with apprenticeship completion and passage of MT exam a license may be obtained	Yes; if completed an apprenticeship and took state exam

Plumbing Licensing: Journeyman License requirements- MT requires completion of journeyman plumbing apprenticeship program consisting of at least **7500 hours practical experience legally obtained and 576 hours of required related instruction/classroom education.**

Standard “approved” United States plumbing journeyman apprenticeship programs consist of a minimum of 6000 experience hours, supervised by a license plumber and a minimum of 144 hours of related instruction per year (total 576); standard approved journeyman plumbing apprenticeships are generally four years in length. MT plumbing apprenticeship is five years in length and requires 7500 hours of experience. The Board has drafted bill language to modify the five-year requirement to be in line with the *standard* in the U.S; substantial equivalency determinations may be applied with a consistent standard approach. Some states offer formal plumbing apprenticeship completion as a pathway to the licensure exam. Most states exam over UPC, IPC and or homegrown state plumbing code; most states have a state specific exam covering applicable code and state laws and rules.

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State	North Dakota	South Dakota	Wyoming	Idaho	Oregon	Washington
Required plumbing apprenticeship registration &/or state registered trainee.	Yes	Yes	No; licensure at the local jurisdiction- passage of trades exam in the municipality	Yes	Yes	Yes
Journeyman Hours Requirement to exam	Supervised 7600 hours	Supervised 7600 hours; 1900 per year	Supervised 4 years/8000 hours OJT	Supervised 8000 hours	Supervised 7700-8000 hours	Supervised 8000 hours; must be registered as a trainee
Journeyman Related Instruction Requirement/ Classroom education to exam	576 classroom instruction hours	144 per year; 576 total hours	None; 576 apprenticeship total required hours	576 classroom instruction	576 classroom instruction	576 classroom instruction
Other journeyman allowable pathways to licensure exam outside of registered state apprenticeship completion.	Yes; or an equivalent combination of schooling and OJT	No; however, an apprentice may complete 3800 hours of supervised experience, pass a state exam and work independently on single family dwellings/residential property	Yes; apprenticeship completion or supervised work experience verified 8000 hours	Yes; alternatively, an unregistered apprentice may work supervised for 16000 hours and take the exam for licensure	Yes; or an equivalent combination of schooling and OJT.	Yes; must be registered as a trainee and log 8000 OJT under supervision

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Journeyman Equivalent License Option	No; however, with apprenticeship completion and verified 7500 hours experience and passage of MT state PJ exams a license can be obtained	No; however, with apprenticeship completion and verified 7500 hours experience and passage of MT state PJ exams a license can be obtained	No; however, with apprenticeship completion and verified 7500 hours experience and passage of MT state PJ exams a license can be obtained	Yes; if, apprenticeship completion pathway	Yes	Yes; if app completed pathway
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Application Report 01/01/2025-01/01/2026- “out of state applicants”; most common out of state applicants are from the following states: **Highlighted** states information provided in table.

MT applicants make up 90% of the total number of applicants per year.

Florida (2)

Idaho (6)

Minnesota (3)

North Dakota (7)

Oregon (2)

South Dakota (2)

Texas (1)

Washington (6)

State	Florida	Minnesota	Texas
Required plumbing apprenticeship registration &/or state registered trainee.	No	No	No
Journeyman Hours Requirement to exam	Documented 4 yrs/8000 hours	Supervised practical experience 4 years/7000 hours	8000 hours documented plumbing experience
Journeyman Related Instruction Requirement/ Classroom education to exam	No; 576 total hours for apprenticeship completion	No; 576 total hours for apprenticeship completion	48-hour training course

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Other journeyman allowable pathways to licensure exam outside of registered state apprenticeship completion.	Yes; 4 yrs/8000 hours under a certified registered plumbing contractor	Yes; 7000 hours verified and passage of state exam	Yes; 8000 documented experience and 48-hour training course
Journeyman Equivalent License Option	Yes; if apprenticeship completion and passage of state exam	Yes; if apprenticeship completion and passage of state exam	Yes; if apprenticeship completion and passage of state exam