

**KASTAMA
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Sen. Kastama HVAC/R Proposal

General: The general purpose of this proposal is to recognize that some level of regulation of the HVAC/R industry is necessitated, however, such regulation should adhere to the statutory requirement that regulations should only be implemented to the extent necessary for public safety. Having recognized this, the proposal as passed by the House goes beyond this statutory requirement and, may in fact, prove as an unnecessary barrier to well qualified individuals entering this profession. In this regards, I was impressed by the testimony from Bill Engleking who stated that the House proposal would virtually eliminate HVAC/R as a career option for many displaced middle-aged workers by placing too great of an emphasis on supervised work hours --- not competency.

The following proposal recognizes this and allows an individual to become a certified mechanic by allowing him/her to take a certification test upon completion of a course of training recognized by the HVAC/R Board, such as the Engleking HVAC Training School, or upon obtaining the requisite work experience or participation in an approved apprenticeship program.

This proposal would also reduce the number of certification levels from three to two. Justification for this is that in the cities that currently implement licensing requirements (Seattle, Kennewick, Yakima, Spokane, Pullman and Tacoma), only one (Spokane) separates certification into more than one level (two). No other city requires this. In addition, Oregon requires no certification, while Idaho only requires one level of certification. No justification has been given that proves the necessity of three separate levels of certification.

Under this proposal, Individuals holding the Mechanic I certification would be authorized to work on residential and light commercial systems, while holders of the Mechanic II certification would be allowed to work on systems of any size. Recognizing that a certain level of experience is necessary to work on larger systems, an individual seeking a Mechanic II certificate must accumulate 2 years (or 4,000 hours) of work experience, or equivalent as specified below, as a Mechanic I and pass an examination.

Although this proposal does not directly address exemptions from certification, discussion of these should continue.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Requirements for certifying HVAC/R mechanics

MODIFY: Create three paths to Mechanic I certification:

1. A work experience path: similar to current legislation, an individual would need to work 1000 hours at 100% supervision, or 2000 hours at 75% supervision, and then take the exam.
2. A coursework path: an individual could take the exam after completion of a HVAC/R board recognized training course.
3. An apprenticeship path: same as what's included in legislation.

2. Methods of registering HVAC/R contractors who qualify for two or more registrations of licenses

APPROVE

3. Establishing at least three levels of HVAC/R mechanics, with the ability to be certified in several specialties including HVAC, refrigeration, and gas piping.

MODIFY: Replace the three tiered mechanic system in the legislation with a two tiered mechanic system. Mechanic I tier would allow work on residential and light commercial systems, while the Mechanic II tier would have an unlimited scope of work. Retain different specialties.

HVAC/R Certificate	Specialty Certificate	Scope of work (Specifics to be determined)
HVAC/R Mechanic I	•Gas piping specialty mechanic I/II	•gas piping work on residential and light commercial systems.
	•Refrigeration specialty mechanic I	•refrigeration work on residential and light commercial systems.
	•HVAC specialty mechanic I	•HVAC work on residential and light commercial systems.
HVAC/R Mechanic II	•Gas piping specialty mechanic I/II	•gas piping work on any systems.
	•Refrigeration specialty mechanic II	•refrigeration work on any refrigeration system using any refrigerant.
	•HVAC specialty mechanic II	•HVAC work on all HVAC equipment and systems.

4. The experience requirements for each mechanic level.

MODIFY: Change the experience requirements as follows:

Mechanic I: There are three paths to certification, if the individual chooses the work experience, then they must accumulate 1000 hours at 100% supervision or 2000 hours at 75% supervision in order to take the exam. An individual pursuing the coursework path or the apprenticeship path has no work experience requirement; however they must still take the exam prior to certification.

Mechanic II: An individual seeking to become certified as a Mechanic II must accumulate 2 years of work experience, or 4000 hours, as a Mechanic I, or complete an apprenticeship program. Up to 2000 hours of training from a Technical College may be substituted for up to 2000 hours of work experience. An examination must then be passed. Justification for this requirement is drawn

from Spokane's certification process, which only requires that a person certified as a Mechanic I work for a specified period before qualifying for a Mechanic II license.

5. The methods by which apprentices and other persons learning to perform HVAC/R work obtain training certificates.

MODIFY: An individual pursuing the work experience path to certification would need to obtain a training certificate, however, an individual pursuing the course work path would not.

6. Exemptions to the registration or certification requirements.

MODIFY: Further discussion.

7. The role and the composition of the HVAC/R Board.

MODIFY: Require the board to develop a list of recognized training schools or programs an individual could complete in order to (1) take the Mechanic I exam; and (2) substitute training hours for work experience hours required by the Mechanic II certification.