
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 480

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION SAFETY REFRESHER TRAINING COURSES.

SUMMARY:

This bill changes the construction safety training requirement for certain plumbers and electricians on state and municipal public works projects subject to state prevailing wage laws. Current law requires the mechanics, laborers and workers on such projects to have taken a 10-hour federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-approved construction safety course no more than five years before the start of the project. In effect, they must re-take the 10-hour course every five years to remain continuously qualified to work on these projects.

The bill allows plumbers and electricians who (1) have taken the 10-hour OSHA course and (2) are subject to continuing education requirements for their licensing, to substitute a four-hour supplemental safety training course when they would otherwise be required to take the 10-hour training.

The bill requires the labor commissioner, by January 1, 2012, to adopt regulations regarding the (1) standards the four-hour supplemental course must meet and (2) process for verifying that training requirements have been met.

SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING COURSE

The bill requires the labor commissioner to adopt regulations that will require the four-hour supplemental course to (1) be taught by a federal OSHA authorized trainer, (2) include an update of revised OSHA standards, and (3) review required construction hazards training. Current law requires regulations on the existing training course.

TRAINING VERIFICATION

The regulations required by the bill must include verification procedures for the four-hour supplemental training requirement. They must allow a student course completion card submitted to the commissioner to prove compliance with the four-hour supplemental training requirement if it is (1) issued by a federal OSHA authorized trainer and (2) dated no more than five years before the electrician or plumber starts work on the project.

Current law requires contractors on prevailing wage projects to verify that their construction workers meet the 10-hour OSHA course requirement by providing the commissioner with a student course completion card issued by the federal OSHA Training Institute, or other proof the commissioner deems compliant, for each construction worker on the project. Contractors with miners and telecommunications workers have a similar verification requirement based on their respective federal regulatory standards.

Any workers not complying with the training requirements can be removed from the project if they cannot prove compliance within 15 days of being found in violation of the requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

State prevailing wage law applies to state and municipal (1) repair and renovation projects costing \$100,000 or more and (2) new construction projects costing \$400,000 or more. It requires contractors to pay a minimum pay rate for certain classes of construction workers employed on these projects.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/24/2011)