

RS26473 and RS26474 Addresses barriers to licensing, inconsistencies of requirements between in-state and out of state persons, provides alternative routes to licensing, allows persons to remain in trade who may not progress through the trade using the "traditional route", returns to the yearly registration of apprentice, allows for registrations to be "revived".

Back story: The need for these RS's were identified during a negotiated rulemaking process between electrical contractors, apprentice, homeowners, educational facilities, apprentice, Idaho legislatures and others interested in the electrical industry. During this process several issues were identified.

1. A desire for an increase in the journeyman to apprentice ratio. (Received opposition mostly by union)
2. A desire for a helper category (Received opposition mostly by union)
3. A desire to take away the requirement to force apprentice who have not received the journeyman license after two years from finishing school to go back to fourth year. (Which is not required of out of state persons with 16000 hours of experience because they did not go to school, opposed mostly by union)
4. A desire to let apprentice move through the program as they choose, which may not be the traditional 4 years and 8000 hours of experience route. (opposed mostly by union)
5. A desire to let apprentice in Idaho test for journeyman after they have received 16000 hours of experience; which is what individuals from out of state are allowed to do. (opposed mostly by union)
6. A desire to do away with the requirement to prove experience in residential, commercial and industrial installations. (opposed mostly by union) this received strong support from Idaho industries whos apprentice do only one type of installation and the residential electrical contractors.
7. A desire to allow licensed persons from out of state who have completed the apprenticeship program or have met the 16,000 hour requirement, but have not taken or passed the Idaho journeyman exam to work. Presently licensed individuals from out of state cannot register as apprentice and cannot work until they have passed the exam.
8. A desire from the electrical apprentice to have a card yearly that states where they are in the program, this allows them to seek out raises and present it to prospective employers to validate experience and education.
9. A desire to easily place persons in the apprentice program based on experience and education.
10. A desire for alternative routes to licensing. (adamantly opposed by union)
11. A desire to recognize that not all person working in the electrical trade want to become Journeyman electrician. Many who are capable of performing installations may not or cannot or will not take and pass the journeyman exam. Some do not want the responsibility, some are afraid the persons they work for may not need additional journeyman and may terminate their employment. There are paralegals and there are

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5. One of the paradigm shifts is acknowledging there are other routes to journeyman than the traditional 4 year and 8000 hours. We already allow individuals from outside the state of Idaho this, we need to allow Idaho citizens this same route.
6. The removal of the requirement to prove residential, commercial and industrial experience acknowledges the fact that many contractors and tradesmen specialize in specific types of installations. Currently we are telling people they may have to quit working for their employer and find a job with someone else to obtain additional experience. This is also next to impossible to enforce. DBS has no way to verify a persons experience. Work verification is done on an "honor" basis and many people are compelled to falsify the verifications in order to test for journeyman. The removal of this requirement comes is highly supported by Idaho's industrial industry whos apprentice only perform industrial installations.
7. We often have licensed individuals from other states move to Idaho, but legally cannot work until they have passed the journeymans exam. They cannot sign up as an apprentice but need time to study for the exam. It took my neighbor 7 months before he was able to pass his exam. In the meantime their options are to not work, work without a license or falsify documentation and sign up as an apprentice, which is also against the current rules. The creation of the "electrical installer license" would allow persons who have completed the apprenticeship program or have 16000 hours of experience a way to work legally.
8. The yearly registration of apprentices came directly from the apprentice themselves. They are asking for a way to track where they are in the program, they want to be able to use this as a bargaining chip when applying for jobs. Furthermore we are discovering that the five year license has become burdensome. Many apprentice do not understand that it is their responsibility to maintain and turn in their work verification hours. When they come to test or ask to re-register they run into many barriers. Many have not been able to verify hours due to contractors passing away, contractors may have closed their doors, some of them have had falling out with contractors and they do not want to help them out. By going to the yearly registration it helps DBS educate the apprentice of requirements and guide them through the program to journeyman. It also allows for verification of education and experience to move to an expanded ratio.
9. When persons from out of state or prior military want to join the program the yearly apprentice progression will allow DBS to easily place them in a specific level of apprenticeship. We send them to a board approved education provider, the provider looks at their transcripts, gives them credit based upon their previous education. They can then come to us, we can look at their education, work experience, register them as a "level 1, 2 or 3 apprentice" then they can approach prospective employers with verified education and experience.
10. This recognizes that there are other routes to journeyman not just the traditional 4 year and 8000 hours. This gives individuals a choice towards journeyman. It also lets people