



Electrician Supervising Requirements

February 26, 2021

Laura Shields, Energy Policy Associate, laura.shields@ncsl.org

A number of states require that apprentice or helper electricians be supervised by a journeyman or master electrician. At least 12 states and Puerto Rico have statutes that limit the number of apprentice-level electricians that can work under the supervision of a more senior electrician. I've excerpted relevant statutory text from those states and territories below.

Arkansas

"One (1) master electrician or journeyman electrician may supervise up to three (3) apprentice electricians on a single electrical job." [AR ST § 17-28-312](#)

"Electrical apprentice" is defined as "a person whose principal occupation is the learning of and assisting in the installation of electrical work under the direct supervision of a licensed journeyman electrician or master electrician." [AR ST § 17-28-101](#)

Colorado

"A licensed electrician shall not directly supervise more than three apprentices at a job site." [CO ST § 12-115-115](#)

Connecticut

The following hiring ratios of apprentices to journeyman or contractors apply in the state:

1:1; 2:2; 3:3; 4:6; 5:9; 6:12; 7:15; 8:18; 9:21; 10:24. Additionally, the ratio continues at 3 journeymen to 1 apprentice. [CT ST § 20-332b](#)

Iowa

"The licensee may employ or supervise apprentice electricians and unclassified persons at a ratio not to exceed three apprentice electricians and unclassified persons to one licensee, except that such ratio and the other requirements of this section shall not apply to apprenticeship classroom training." [IA ST § 103.15](#)

Massachusetts

"Any such person, firm or corporation may employ learners or apprentices to work with and under the direct personal supervision of electricians referred to in this paragraph in said installation and repair work, provided that no such journeyman electrician shall have more than one learner or apprentice working with him and under his supervision as aforesaid; but not more than one such learner or apprentice shall be so employed for each journeyman electrician." [MA ST 141 § 8](#)

Michigan

“The ratio of electrical journeymen or master electricians to registered apprentice electricians shall be on the basis of 1 electrical journeyman or master electrician to no more than 3 registered apprentice electricians.” [MI ST 339.5717](#)

Nebraska

“The licensee may employ or supervise apprentice electricians at a ratio not to exceed three apprentice electricians to one licensee, except that such ratio and the other requirements of this section shall not be applicable to a teacher-student relationship within a classroom of a community college.” [NE ST § 81-2113](#)

New Hampshire

“A journeyman electrician shall directly supervise no more than one apprentice in the first year following his or her initial date of licensure. A journeyman electrician may have 2 apprentice electricians under his or her direct supervision beginning on the first anniversary of the journeyman electrician's initial date of licensure. Each journeyman electrician on a work site may have 2 apprentice electricians working under his or her direct supervision, to a maximum of 3 journeyman electricians per work site. Each additional journeyman electrician may have one apprentice electrician under his or her direct supervision. Each master electrician on a work site may have 2 apprentice electricians working under his or her direct supervision, to a maximum of 6 master electricians per work site. Each additional master electrician may have one apprentice electrician under his or her direct supervision. The maximum number of licensed electricians with 2 apprentice electricians working under their direct supervision on a work site shall not exceed 6.” [NH ST § 319-C:2-a](#)

Oklahoma

“No more than three apprentices shall perform electrical work at the same time under the supervision of one journeyman electrician.” [OK ST T. 19 § 864.6](#). *See also* [OK ST T. 59 § 1698](#) “No more than three apprentice electricians shall work under the supervision of a single journeyman or contractor.”

Puerto Rico

“No collegiated sic expert electrician may have under his/her immediate supervision more than nine (9) apprentices or authorized assistant expert electricians.” [PR ST T. 20 § 2711](#)

Rhode Island

“This chapter does not forbid the employment of one properly limited-registered apprentice electrician working with and under the direct personal supervision of a licensed journeyman electrician. Additionally, this chapter does not forbid the employment of: (1) One properly registered apprentice burnerperson working with and under the direct personal supervision of a licensed burnerperson; (2) One properly registered apprentice fire alarm installer working with and under the direct personal supervision of a licensed fire alarm installer; (3) Two (2) properly registered apprentice electrical sign installers working with and under the direct personal supervision of a licensed electrical sign installer; (4) One properly registered apprentice maintenance electrician working with and under the direct personal supervision of a valid Class C or Class D license holder; or (5) One properly registered apprentice

lightning-protection installer working with and under the direct personal supervision of a licensed lightning-protection installer (LPI).” [RI ST § 5-6-24](#)

Washington

“When working as a specialty electrician, not more than two noncertified individuals for every certified master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, master journey level electrician, or journey level electrician, except that the ratio requirements are one certified master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, master journey level electrician, or journey level electrician working as a specialty electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and working as part of an electrical construction program at public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the workforce training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an electrical construction program at a trade school, a trade school may receive input and advice from the electrical board; and When working as a journey level electrician, not more than one noncertified individual for every certified master journey level electrician or journey level electrician, except that the ratio requirements shall be one certified master journey level electrician or journey level electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and working as part of an electrical construction program at public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the workforce training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an electrical construction program at a trade school, a trade school may receive input and advice from the electrical board. An individual who has a current training certificate and who has successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved apprenticeship program or in an electrical construction program at public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the workforce training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may work without direct on-site supervision during the last six months of meeting the practical experience requirements of this chapter.” [WA ST 19.28.161](#)

Wyoming

“A licensed journeyman or master electrician shall supervise each apprentice electrician. A licensed journeyman or master electrician shall not supervise more than two (2) apprentice electricians at the same time.” “A licensed technician shall not supervise more than one (1) apprentice technician at the same time.” [WY ST § 35-9-127](#)