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1 IN THE SENATE

BY THOMAS

2 SENATE BILL NO. 14

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to electrical safety; and providing
7 for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 18.60 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 ARTICLE 6. ELECTRICAL SAFETY.

11 Sec. 18.60.580. MINIMUM ELECTRICAL STANDARDS. The electrical
12 standards prescribed in the 1965 edition of the National Electrical
13 Code approved by the American Standards Association constitute the
14 minimum electrical standards for all industrial and commercial struc-
15 tures where people are employed and all public structures where people
16 assemble, and for all buildings which are in any way financed from
17 public funds or for which the finance is guaranteed by a governmental
18 agency.

19 Sec. 18.60.590. BOROUGH AND CITY ELECTRICAL SAFETY CODES. (a)
20 The department may by regulation incorporate into their Act amendments
21 to the 1965 National Electrical Code as approved and issued by the
22 American Standards Association.

23 (b) Each borough, city rural electrification association may by
24 ordinance rule or order prescribe more stringent electrical standards
25 for their respective areas of jurisdiction than those prescribed by
26 the department or those established under sec. 580 of this chapter.

27 Sec. 18.60.600. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT. (a) The
28 department may

29 (1) promulgate regulations to carry out the purposes of secs.

1 580 - 660 of this chapter;

2 (2) inspect the electrical wiring of any place of employment
3 or public structure in this state.

4 (b) The department shall

5 (1) keep a record of all inspection fees collected;

6 (2) keep a record of all electrical inspections conducted.

7 Sec. 18.60.610. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY. Upon application to
8 the department a person, corporation, electric utility firm, public
9 utility district, rural electrification association, or municipal
10 utility district furnishing electrical current may be authorized by
11 the commissioner to inspect the electrical wiring for a public or com-
12 mercial structure as defined in sec. 580 of this chapter to which it is
13 to furnish electrical current before energizing the electrical system
14 on, in, or about such premises. Authorization by the commissioner
15 under this section constitutes a grant of full authority to act within
16 the provisions of secs. 580 - 660 of this chapter with the same immuni-
17 ties and privileges accorded to the state in the performance of these
18 duties.

19 Sec. 18.60.620. INSPECTION FEES. A person, corporation, electric
20 utility firm, public utility district, rural electrification associa-
21 tion or municipal utility district authorized under sec. 610 of this
22 chapter to provide inspection services may charge a fee for these
23 services. After notice and hearing, the department shall set a maximum
24 schedule of fees for inspection services rendered under secs. 580 - 660
25 of this chapter. The department may review the schedule every two years
26 after giving notice and hearing.

27 Sec. 18.60.630. ENFORCEMENT OF COMPLIANCE. An authorized in-
28 spector under this chapter shall give written notice to the owner of
29 a constructed premises, or the contractor of a premises under

1 construction, of each violation of applicable electrical standards
2 discovered as a result of his inspection. If within 15 days after
3 receipt of written notice of an electrical violation, the person noti-
4 fied does not rectify the condition, the inspector may notify the
5 electric utility firm, public utility district rural electrification
6 association or municipal utility district supplying power to the
7 premises. Upon notice in writing from the inspector the supplier of
8 electrical power may discontinue services to the premises where there
9 exists the alleged violation.

10 Sec. 18.60.640. SCOPE OF WORK COVERED. (a) Secs. 580 - 660 of
11 this chapter cover only new work and alterations to existing work.

12 (b) These minimum standards shall apply to all work done in the
13 state by a licensed electrical contractor or an employee of a licensed
14 electrical contractor.

15 (c) These standards shall be the recommended minimum standards
16 for all new public structures in the state.

17 Sec. 18.60.650. PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS. (a) A person who fails
18 to keep electrical installations or equipment in a safe condition at a
19 place where persons are employed, or in a public structure where persons
20 assemble is, upon conviction, punishable for each offense by a fine of
21 not more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or
22 by both.

23 (b) A person who installs electrical wiring not in compliance
24 with minimum electrical standards as set out in sec. 580 of this chapter
25 after having been notified in writing by an authorized inspector, is
26 upon conviction, punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by
27 imprisonment of not more than one year, or by both,

28 Sec. 18.60.660. DEFINITIONS. In secs. 580 - 660 of this chapter

29 (1) "department" means Department of Labor;

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(2) "commissioner" means commissioner of the Department of Labor;

(3) "electrical wiring" means the entire electrical system, including all conducting and shielding material, all regulatory and safety apparatus, and all devices and techniques used in the process of installation;

(4) "public structures" mean buildings such as hotels, restaurants, taverns, lodging houses, auditoriums, town halls, or any structure designed and/or used for public assembly whether publically or privately financed.

* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without approval.