
INTRODUCTION

Scope and Acknowledgements

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W.S. 28-8-107(b) authorizes the Legislative Service Office to conduct program evaluations, performance audits, and analyses of policy alternatives. Generally, the purpose of such research is to provide a base of knowledge from which policymakers can make informed decisions.

In May 2008, the Management Audit Committee directed staff to undertake a review of the Department of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety. We focused on the Department's efforts to ensure code compliance through plan reviews, inspections, electrical permits, and electrician licenses. In carrying out these duties, the Department works with the Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety in Buildings, and the Electrical Board. DFPES may delegate code enforcement to local jurisdictions, although the agency is responsible for electrician licensing throughout the state. This report addresses the following questions:

- How well is the Department ensuring code compliance in areas of state jurisdiction?
- What is the role of the Department in assuring local jurisdictions enforce codes equal to or greater than the state's? What are the requirements for those local enforcement jurisdictions?
- How does the Electrical Board (and Council) carry out statutory responsibilities?

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