

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays: 0
Exc.: Deckert
Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands list of violations that could subject construction contractors to license suspension or revocation to include sections of plumbing, electrical, boiler, elevator, and corporate tax laws. Specifies that loss of certain trades licenses could subject the contractor to suspension or revocation. Reorganizes contractor statutes by dividing one long chapter into shorter, single-subject statutes. Adjusts statutory references and clarifies conflicting provisions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Common for trades licensees like plumbers and electricians to also be licensed contractors
- Seriousness of license revocations
- Lack of authority for the Construction Contractors Board to suspend licenses in some cases
- Public often not aware that a contractor with a valid license may have been revoked by a Building Codes licensing board
- Support of Associated General Contractors and Oregon Remodelers Association

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: It is common for trades licensees such as plumbers and electricians to also be licensed as construction contractors. Trades licenses are granted by boards within the Building Codes Division at the Department of Consumer and Business Services, while building contractor licenses are granted by a separate agency, the Construction Contractors Board (CCB). The public often relies on the status of a CCB license when they choose a construction contractor, not realizing that other types of permits and licenses may have been revoked or suspended or other business related laws violated. The CCB currently has authority to sanction a licensee for violations of certain building codes and other non-CCB administered laws, but recently when the CCB considered sanctioning the CCB license of a plumber whose plumbing license had been revoked by the Building Codes Division, the CCB found that it lacked the authority even for serious or repeated violations of law. Under House Bill 2109-A the CCB would have the authority to, but would not be required to, suspend or revoke the contractor's license in such cases.

House Bill 2109-A also reorganizes and clarifies construction contractor's statutes without making other substantive changes.