

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 3 - 0 - 2

Yeas: George L., Monnes Anderson, Metsger

Nays: 0

Exc.: Deckert, Starr

Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/14, 5/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the State Landscape Contractors Board to establish continuing education requirements for landscape contractors of up to ten hours per year. Requires landscape contractors submitting applications to renew licenses expiring on or after January 1, 2009, to demonstrate compliance with the established continuing education requirement. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Time shortage for most small, independent landscape contractors
- Examples of low-cost or free programs that could qualify as continuing education such as trade shows and industry meetings
- Support from the Oregon Landscape Contractors Board and the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association
- Importance of managing landscaper water uses

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Resolves conflicts with HB 2117.

BACKGROUND: Currently, once landscape contractors pass a competency exam and receive their initial license, they are not required to participate in continuing education classes or programs. House Bill 2538-A requires the Landscape Contractors Board (LCB) to establish continuing education requirements as a condition for landscape contractors to renew their licenses. Under the measure, the LCB is responsible for approving continuing education programs, the required amount of continuing education hours or units a landscape contractor, and how many hours can be credited to an approved program. The programs must directly contribute to landscape contractor professional competency; potential issue areas include the areas of human resources, safety, water management, and environmental protection. Approved programs may include courses at a local community college or university, industry meetings, trade shows, and online training.

The LCB may not require landscape contractors to take more than 10 hours of continuing education per year, and the board is allowed to adopt rules and establish grounds for waivers of continuing education requirements to be issued, capping the waiver at two years for circumstances such as military service, inactive status, or extreme hardship.