

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	4 - 2 - 1
Yeas:	Esquivel, Holvey, Rosenbaum, Schaufler
Nays:	Berger, Edwards C.
Exc.:	Smith P.
Prepared By:	Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/12, 3/23

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:

- Who would carry out continuing education programs or classes
- Examples of industries that currently require or are considering requiring continuing education to maintain a license
- Level of trade association involvement versus the level of governmental involvement in regulating the landscape contracting industry
- Cost to landscape contractor licensees, particularly for smaller or start-up businesses
- Examples of low-cost or free programs that could qualify as continuing education such as trade shows, industry meetings, and community landscape projects
- Support from both the Oregon Landscape Contractors Board and the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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. HB 2538 requires the Landscape Contractors Board (LCB) to adopt administrative rules to establish continuing education requirements as a condition for landscape contractors to renew their license. Under the measure, the LCB is responsible for approving continuing education programs, the required amount of continuing education hours or units a landscape contractor is required to obtain, 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.

3/28/2007 4:00:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.