

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger

Nays: 0

Exc.: Deckert

Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 1/22, 3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases the maximum fee for home inspector competency testing by the Construction Contractors Board from \$50 to \$150.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Small number of inspectors involved
- Need to professionalize testing
- Choice of national or state test
- Testing fees in other states

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Increases maximum testing fee to \$150. Original bill would have allowed the Construction Contractors Board to set the fee by rule.

BACKGROUND: Home inspectors in Oregon are required to obtain certification from the Construction Contractors Board indicating that they meet qualifications and have passed competency testing as determined by the board. The testing covers standards of practice and specific component competencies. Applicants for certification are currently required to pay a \$50 application fee and a \$50 testing fee. Each year, a \$75 renewal fee and continuing education are required. Oregon currently has 400 certified home inspectors. Approximately 270 applicants take or retake the certification test each year. The tests are currently developed by the Home Inspector Advisory Committee and are administered at contracted locations around the state. Rental of the sites costs about \$10 to \$15 of the current \$50 test fee.

Twenty states currently use the National Home Inspector Examination or a combination of the national test and a state test. National testing costs are currently \$225. The Construction Contractors Board and its advisory committee considered moving to the national test, but decided to instead upgrade and professionalize the state test and protocol in order to improve its reliability and validity.

SB 96-A increases the current maximum testing fee from \$50 to \$150. Under the bill, the board would be able to increase the fee to any amount up to \$150 and to use the increment of revenue to offset the costs of testing improvements.