

Enrolled House Bill 2498

Sponsored by Representative ROBLAN; Representatives BERGER, BONAMICI, BOONE, BRUUN, CLEM, ESQUIVEL, GARRARD, GREENLICK, HUNT, JENSON, READ, SCHAUFLER, SHIELDS, Senators MONNES ANDERSON, MORSE, NELSON, VERGER (at the request of Oregon Association of Realtors)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to construction work on existing structures; amending ORS 701.010 and 701.055.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 701.010 is amended to read:

701.010. The Construction Contractors Board may adopt rules to make licensure optional for persons who offer, bid or undertake to perform work peripheral to construction, as defined by administrative rule of the board. The following persons are exempt from licensure under this chapter:

- (1) A person who is constructing, altering, improving or repairing personal property.
- (2) A person who is constructing, altering, improving or repairing a structure located within the boundaries of any site or reservation under the jurisdiction of the federal government.
- (3) A person who furnishes materials, supplies, equipment or finished product and does not fabricate them into, or consume them, in the performance of the work of a contractor.
- (4) A person working on one structure or project, under one or more contracts, when the aggregate price of all of that person's contracts for labor, materials and all other items is less than \$500 and such work is of a casual, minor or inconsequential nature. This subsection does not apply to a person who advertises or puts out any sign or card or other device that might indicate to the public that the person is a contractor.
- (5) An owner who contracts for work to be performed by a licensed contractor. This subsection does not apply to a person who, in the pursuit of an independent business, constructs, remodels, repairs or for compensation and with the intent to sell the structure, arranges to have constructed, remodeled or repaired a structure with the intent of offering the structure for sale before, upon or after completion. It is prima facie evidence that there was an intent of offering the structure for sale if the person who constructed, remodeled or repaired the structure or arranged to have the structure constructed, remodeled or repaired does not occupy the structure after its completion.

(6) An owner who contracts for one or more licensed contractors to perform work wholly or partially within the same calendar year on not more than three existing residential structures of the owner. This subsection does not apply to an owner contracting for work that requires a building permit unless the work that requires a permit is performed by, or under the direction of, a general contractor.

~~[(6)]~~ (7) A person performing work on a property that person owns or performing work as the owner's employee, whether the property is occupied by the owner or not, or a person performing work on that person's residence, whether or not that person owns the residence. This subsection

does not apply to a person performing work on a structure owned by that person or the owner's employee, if the work is performed[,] in the pursuit of an independent business[,] with the intent of offering the structure for sale before, upon or after completion.

[(7)] (8) A person licensed in one of the following trades or professions when operating within the scope of that license:

(a) An architect licensed by the State Board of Architect Examiners.

(b) A registered professional engineer licensed by the State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying.

(c) A water well contractor licensed by the Water Resources Department.

(d) A sewage disposal system installer licensed by the Department of Environmental Quality.

(e) A landscaping business licensed under ORS 671.510 to 671.710 that constructs fences, decks, arbors, patios, landscape edging, driveways, walkways or retaining walls and that meets the applicable bonding requirements under ORS 671.690.

(f) A pesticide operator licensed under ORS 634.116 who does not conduct inspections for wood destroying organisms for the transfer of real estate.

(g) An appraiser certified or licensed under ORS chapter 674 or an appraiser assistant registered under ORS chapter 674 by the Appraiser Certification and Licensure Board.

[(8)] (9) A person who performs work subject to this chapter as an employee of a contractor.

[(9)] (10) A manufacturer of a manufactured home constructed under standards established by the federal government.

[(10)] (11) A person involved in the movement of:

(a) Modular buildings or structures other than manufactured structures not in excess of 14 feet in width.

(b) Structures not in excess of 16 feet in width when the structures are being moved by their owner if the owner is not a contractor required to be licensed under this chapter.

[(11)] (12) A commercial lending institution or surety company that arranges for the completion, repair or remodeling of a structure. As used in this subsection, "commercial lending institution" means any bank, mortgage banking company, trust company, savings bank, savings and loan association, credit union, national banking association, federal savings and loan association, insurance company or federal credit union maintaining an office in this state.

[(12)] (13) A real estate licensee as defined in ORS 696.010 or the employee of that licensee when performing work on a structure that the real estate licensee manages under a contract.

[(13)] (14) Units of government other than those specified in ORS 701.005 (10)(b) and (c).

[(14)] (15) A qualified intermediary in a property exchange that qualifies under section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code as amended and in effect on January 1, 2004, if the qualified intermediary is not performing construction activities.

[(15)] (16) A business that supplies personnel to a licensed contractor for the performance of work under the direction and supervision of the contractor.

SECTION 2. ORS 701.055 is amended to read:

701.055. (1) A person may not undertake, offer to undertake or submit a bid to do work as a contractor unless that person has a current, valid license issued by the Construction Contractors Board. A partnership, corporation or joint venture may not undertake, offer to undertake or submit a bid to do work as a contractor unless that partnership, corporation or joint venture is licensed under this chapter. A partnership or joint venture is licensed for the purpose of offering to undertake work as a contractor on a structure if any of the partners or joint venturers whose name appears in the business name of the partnership or joint venture is licensed under this chapter.

(2) A licensed partnership or corporation shall notify the board immediately upon any change in licensed partners or corporate officers. If a partnership no longer has a licensed partner, the partnership may not conduct activities that require a license under this chapter.

(3) A city, county or the State of Oregon may not issue a building permit to any person required to be licensed under this chapter that does not have a current, valid license. A county, city or state agency that requires the issuance of a permit as a condition precedent to construction, alteration,

improvement, demolition, movement or repair of any building or structure or the appurtenances to the structure shall, as a condition for issuing the permit, require that the applicant for a permit file a written statement, subscribed by the applicant. The statement must affirm that the applicant is licensed under this chapter, give the license number and state that the license is in full force and effect, or, if the applicant is exempt from licensing under this chapter, list the basis for the exemption. The city, county or state agency shall list the contractor's license number on the permit obtained by that contractor.

(4) If the applicant for a building permit is exempt from licensure under ORS 701.010 [(6)] (7), the city, county or state shall supply the applicant with an Information Notice to Property Owners About Construction Responsibilities. The city, county or state may not issue a building permit for a residential structure to the applicant until the applicant signs a statement in substantially the following form:

(a) I have read and understand the Information Notice to Property Owners About Construction Responsibilities; and

(b) I own, reside in or will reside in the completed dwelling. My general contractor is _____, Construction Contractors Board license no. _____, license expiration date _____. I will instruct my general contractor that all subcontractors who work on this dwelling must be licensed with the Construction Contractors Board; or

(c) I am performing work on property I own, a residence that I reside in or a residence that I will reside in.

(d) I will be my own general contractor and, if I hire subcontractors, I will hire only subcontractors licensed with the Construction Contractors Board.

(e) If I change my mind and do hire a general contractor, I will contract with a general contractor who is licensed with the Construction Contractors Board and I will immediately notify the office issuing this building permit of the name of the general contractor _____.

(5) The board shall adopt by rule a form entitled "Information Notice to Property Owners About Construction Responsibilities" that shall describe, in nontechnical language and in a clear and coherent manner using words in their common and everyday meaning, the responsibilities property owners are undertaking by acting as their own general contractor and the problems that could develop. The responsibilities described in the form shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Compliance with state and federal laws regarding Social Security tax, income tax and unemployment tax.

(b) Workers' compensation insurance on workers.

(c) Liability and property damage insurance.

(6) The board shall develop and furnish to city, county and state building permit offices, at no cost to the offices, the Information Notice to Property Owners About Construction Responsibilities and the statement to be signed by the permit applicant.

(7) A city or county that requires a business license for engaging in a business subject to regulation under this chapter shall require that the licensee or applicant for issuance or renewal of the business license file, or have on file, with the city or county, a signed statement that the licensee or applicant is licensed under this chapter.

(8) It is prima facie evidence of doing business as a contractor if a person for that person's own use performs, employs others to perform, or for compensation and with the intent to sell the structure, arranges to have performed any work described in ORS 701.005 (3) if within any 36-month period that person offers for sale two or more newly built structures on which that work was performed.

(9) Licensure under this chapter is prima facie evidence that the licensee conducts a separate, independent business.

(10) The provisions of this chapter are exclusive and a city, county or other political subdivision may not require or issue any registrations, licenses or surety bonds, nor charge any fee for the regulatory or surety registration of any contractor licensed with the board. This subsection does not limit or abridge the authority of any city or county to:

(a) License and levy and collect a general and nondiscriminatory license fee levied upon all businesses or upon business conducted by any firm within the city or county;

(b) Require a contractor to pay a fee, post a bond or require insurance when the city, county or political subdivision is contracting for the service of the contractor; or

(c) Regulate a contractor that is not required to be licensed under this chapter.

(11)(a) A contractor shall maintain a list that includes the following information about all sub-contractors or other contractors performing work on a project for that contractor:

(A) Names and addresses.

(B) License numbers.

(b) The contractor must deliver the list referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection to the board within 72 hours after a board request made during reasonable working hours.

(12) A contractor may not hire any subcontractor or other contractor to perform work unless the subcontractor or contractor is licensed under this chapter or exempt from licensure under ORS 701.010.

(13) A consumer notification form designed to specifically inform a property owner what the property owner should do to protect themselves in a residential repair, remodel or construction project shall be prepared by the board and provided at no cost to all licensed contractors. The contractor shall deliver the form to the property owner when the contractor submits a bid or proposal for work on a residential structure. The form shall include an explanation of the meaning of licensure, including a statement that licensure is not an endorsement of a contractor's work, and an explanation of the bond and insurance levels required of contractors for the benefit of property owners. The form must not be larger than one side of a sheet of paper that is 8-1/2 inches by 11 inches. The contractor may reproduce the form on the contractor's bid proposal.

(14) A contractor may not perform work subject to this section for an owner of a residential structure without a written contract if the aggregate contract price exceeds \$2,000. If the price of a contract was initially less than \$2,000, but during the course of performance the contract exceeds that amount, the contractor shall mail or otherwise deliver a written contract to the owner not later than five days after the contractor knows or should reasonably know that the contract price will exceed \$2,000. Failure to have a written contract will not void the contract.

(15) Except as provided in ORS 671.540, a contractor that is not licensed under ORS 671.560 shall hire a person licensed under ORS 671.560 to perform landscaping work.

Passed by House May 10, 2007

Repassed by House June 8, 2007

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Chief Clerk of House

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Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 6, 2007

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President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2007

Approved:

.....M,....., 2007

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Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2007

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Secretary of State