

Enrolled
Senate Bill 88

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CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to water well constructors; amending ORS 537.747 and sections 4 and 7, chapter 496, Oregon Laws 2001; and repealing section 9, chapter 496, Oregon Laws 2001.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 537.747, as amended by section 8, chapter 496, Oregon Laws 2001, and section 10, chapter 594, Oregon Laws 2003, is amended to read:

537.747. (1) No person shall advertise services to construct, alter, abandon or convert wells, offer to enter or enter into a contract with another person or public agency to construct, alter, abandon or convert a well for such other person, cause any well construction, alteration, abandonment or conversion to be performed under such a contract or operate well drilling machinery without possessing a water well constructor's license therefor in good standing issued by the Water Resources Department. **The department shall adopt a single water well constructor's license that may specify the type of well, type of well alteration or construction or type of well drilling machine operation for which the water well constructor is qualified.**

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a person may operate a well drilling machine without a water well constructor's license if supervised by one who possesses such a license.

(3) A person shall be qualified to receive a water well constructor's license if the person:

(a) Is at least 18 years of age.

(b) Has passed a written examination conducted by the department to determine fitness to operate as a water well constructor.

(c) Has paid a license fee and an examination fee according to the fee schedule set forth under subsection (6) of this section.

(d) Has one year or more experience in the operation of well drilling machinery.

(4) Upon fulfillment of all the requirements set out in subsection (3) of this section, the department shall issue the applicant a water well constructor's license in a form prescribed by the department. The license may be issued for a period of *[either one year or five]* **two** years.

(5) A water well constructor's license shall expire on June 30. A person may renew a license by submitting an application and the appropriate fees any time before the license expires but not later than one year after the license expires. A person who renews a license within the 12 months after the license expires may either pay a penalty fee set forth under subsection (6)(d) of this section or requalify for a water well constructor's license in accordance with subsection (3) of this section. If a person fails to renew a license within 12 months after expiration, the person must comply with the requirements of subsection (3) of this section for a new water well constructor's license.

(6) The department shall collect in advance the following fees:

(a) An examination fee of \$20.

(b) A license fee of [*\$50 for a license issued for one year, or \$200 for a license issued for a period of five years*] **\$150**.

(c) A renewal fee of [*\$50 for a one-year license renewed before the license expires or \$200 for a five-year license renewed before the license expires*] **\$150**.

(d) Unless a person requalifies for a water well constructor's license in accordance with subsection (3) of this section, a water well constructor shall pay a renewal fee of [*\$100 for a one-year license*] **\$250** if the license is renewed within 12 months after expiration [*or \$250 for a five-year license if the license is renewed within 12 months after expiration*].

(e) If a person requalifies for a water well constructor's license under subsection (3) of this section, the person shall pay the renewal fee established under paragraph (c) of this subsection.

(7) The department may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew any water well constructor's license when it appears to the satisfaction of the department, after notice and opportunity to be heard by the licensee, that the licensee has failed to comply with the provisions of ORS 537.505 to 537.795 and 537.992 applicable to such licensee or any order or rule adopted thereunder applicable to such licensee, or has made a material misstatement of fact on an application for a license or well log or established a pattern of conduct that willfully or negligently violates any provision of ORS 537.505 to 537.795 and 537.992, or any rule adopted pursuant thereto, applicable to such licensee.

(8) The provisions of subsection (3) of this section requiring one year or more experience in the operation of well drilling machinery do not apply to any person who, on July 1, 1981, holds the license required by this section and who continues thereafter to maintain the license in good standing.

(9) The fees collected under subsection (6) of this section shall be paid into the Water Resources Department Water Right Operating Fund. Such moneys are continuously appropriated to the Water Resources Department to pay the department's expenses in administering and enforcing the water well constructor's licensing program.

SECTION 2. Section 4, chapter 496, Oregon Laws 2001, is amended to read:

Sec. 4. (1) The Well Constructors Continuing Education Committee shall recommend to the Water Resources Commission a process for reviewing and approving continuing education requirements for licensed water well constructors established by rule pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The commission shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of a continuing education program for licensed water well constructors consistent with the recommendations of the committee.

(3) The rules adopted by the commission under this section for the continuing education program shall:

(a) Authorize the committee to review and approve continuing education courses and to assign continuing education credits.

(b) At a minimum require, for renewal of a license issued under ORS 537.747, that an applicant:

(A) Through clinics, schools, professional organizations or seminars, lectures or other courses of study that relate to the practice of well construction and that are approved by the committee, obtain continuing education credits during each licensing period in an amount designated by the commission, but not to exceed 14 credits; and

(B) Furnish proof on a form approved by the committee that the applicant has complied with the continuing education requirements during the preceding licensing period unless the applicant is exempt under subsection (4) of this section.

(4) The commission may waive the continuing education requirements established by rule pursuant to subsection (2) of this section for a licensed water well constructor if the constructor submits satisfactory evidence of inability to attend continuing education courses because of health, military duty or other circumstances beyond the control of the constructor.

(5) For courses sponsored by the Water Resources Department, the fee for one continuing education credit is \$40, and the total fees per day may not exceed \$250.

(6) The fees collected under this section for continuing education courses sponsored by the department shall be paid into the Water Resources Department Water Right Operating Fund. Notwithstanding ORS 536.009, such moneys shall be used to pay the department's expenses associated with conducting continuing education courses.

(7) At the time of application to renew a water well constructor's license pursuant to ORS 537.747 (5), a person shall provide the department with evidence of compliance with the continuing education requirements established pursuant to this section.

SECTION 3. Section 7, chapter 496, Oregon Laws 2001, is amended to read:

Sec. 7. Sections 2 to 4, **chapter 496, Oregon Laws 2001**, [of this 2001 Act] are repealed January 2, [2008] 2014.

SECTION 4. Section 9, chapter 496, Oregon Laws 2001, is repealed.

Passed by Senate March 20, 2007

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Secretary of Senate

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President of Senate

Passed by House May 18, 2007

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Speaker of House

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