

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 8 - 0 - 2

Yeas: Barton, Cameron, Edwards C., Esquivel, Matthews, Thatcher, Witt, Schaufler

Nays: 0

Exc.: Holvey, Kennemer

Prepared By: Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Removes an exemption from registering with the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying for engineering done on residences and small commercial buildings when performed by a registered professional engineer.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Background on the current statutory exemption
- Number of engineers who been found or accused of failing to adequately perform work on a home or small commercial structure
- How measure applies only to engineers
- What can currently be done to discipline engineers for negligent work

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon engineers must register with the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS) in one or more of the following disciplines: Acoustical; Manufacturing; Agricultural; Industrial; Chemical; Mechanical; Civil; Metallurgical; Control Systems; Mining; Electrical; Naval Architectural/ Marine; Environmental; Nuclear; Fire Protection; Petroleum; Forest; Structural; Geotechnical; and Traffic.

Current statute exempts persons making plans or specifications or houses or small commercial structures from engineering statutes related to ethics, training, and competence. Registered professional engineers are also exempt, but sometimes do the work based on their registration as an engineer, even if their specialty has little to do with residential or small commercial structures. For instance, a registered engineer recently failed to competently perform engineering services on an irregular-shaped residence, but OSBEELS was unable to take disciplinary action because of the current exemption. SB 143 closes the loophole by removing the statutory exemption for registered professional engineers.