

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger

Nays: -

Exc.: -

Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 1/28, 2/5, 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires landscape contractor license for persons maintaining ornamental irrigation systems using compressed air. Authorizes plumbers to install irrigation system piping designed by landscape contractor or landscape architect. Exempts property owner employees from landscape contractor licensing for landscaping work performed on that property. Prohibits persons otherwise exempt from licensing as a landscape contractor from representing in any manner to be a landscape contractor.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Winterizing of landscape irrigation systems
- History of rulemaking on repair and maintenance of landscape irrigation systems
- Coverage of licensing responsibilities for volunteer work
- Non-licensed businesses advertising landscape work
- Activities of property-owner employees
- Connections between landscape irrigation and domestic water supplies, and backflow prevention
- Damage to municipal potable water systems

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Authorizes plumbers to install irrigation system piping designed by landscape contractor or landscape architect. Adds exemption to construction contractor licensing for landscaper who subcontracts installation of an irrigation system to a licensed plumbing contractor.

BACKGROUND: Oregon law requires anyone in the State of Oregon who advertises, operates as, or uses the title of a landscape construction professional or landscape contracting business, to be licensed with the Landscape Contractors Board (LCB). There are two licenses required with the LCB: a landscape construction professional license for individuals, and a landscape business license for the employing business. A landscape construction professional cannot offer landscape contracting services unless the individual is an owner or in the employ of a licensed landscape contracting business.

Landscaping is defined to include planning and installing lawns, shrubs, vines, trees or nursery stock (including the preparation of the property on which the vegetation is to be installed), fences, decks, arbors, patios, landscape edging, driveways, walkways or retaining walls as well as planning, constructing or repairing ornamental water features, drainage systems, and irrigation systems. Because the improper use of compressed air can force contaminants into potable water systems, SB 147-A adds maintenance of irrigation systems using compressed air to the definition of landscaping; thus, requiring the licenses.

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