

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Boone, Krieger, Thompson, Witt, Cannon, Gilliam
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Liz Puskar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/3, 5/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes that State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (Board) may issue water right examiner certificate to qualified applicant; Water Resources Commission will set criteria for certificate; and Water Resources Department (WRD) will prepare, administer, and score applicants' examinations. Requires Board to reimburse WRD for expenses associated with examinations. Allows Board to adopt rules regulating certified water right examiners, to investigate alleged or suspected violation by certified water right examiner and, subject to ORS chapter 183, to suspend, revoke, or modify violator's certificate.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Desire to make water right examiners subject to professional conduct requirements and disciplinary actions similar to those of other professional engineers and surveyors
- Amount of fee charged to applicants writing examination to be certified water right examiner
- Types of violations that State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying may investigate

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A certified water rights examiner (CWRE) is a trained surveyor, engineer, or geologist who has passed an examination and can therefore document and confirm the location and beneficial use of water. The Water Resources Department (WRD) relies on documentation by CWREs when it evaluates water right holders' claims for beneficial use. WRD has historically prepared, proctored and scored the exam for CWREs, while the Board has issued the licenses to CWREs and managed the license renewal process. Senate Bill 126 would allow the Board to regulate the professional conduct of CWREs and to discipline violators.