

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Hass, Olsen, Prozanski, Thomsen, Dingfelder
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies authority of State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (Board) to issue certified water rights examiner certificate to registered professional land surveyor, registered professional engineer or registered geologist meeting criteria established by Water Resources Commission. Provides for reimbursement by Board to Water Resources Department (Department) for expenses related to examination. Authorizes Board to adopt rules regulating standards of professional conduct and rules establishing professional development or continuing education requirements. Authorizes Board to investigate alleged or suspected violation by water rights examiner and to suspend, revoke or modify examiner certificate upon finding of violation. Applies to violations committed on or after effective date of Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Professional development hours requirement
- Examples of past problems

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A certified water rights examiner (CWRE) is a trained surveyor, engineer, or geologist who has passed an exam allowing them to document and confirm the location and beneficial use of water. This documentation is required for any water right permit holder who submits a "claim of beneficial use," and wishes to have the water right "certificated" by the Department. While the Department has historically prepared, proctored and scored the exam for CWREs, the Board issues the licenses to CWREs and manages the license renewal process.

Senate Bill 126 authorizes the Board to adopt rules regulating standards of professional conduct and continuing education requirements for CWREs. The bill also authorizes the Board to investigate an alleged or suspected violation by a CWRE and to suspend, revoke or modify an examiner license upon a finding of a violation.