

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Doherty, Johnson, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Richardson, Smith, Vega Pederson, Holvey
Nays:	Thatcher
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bob Estabrook, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/7, 4/4, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Department of Consumer and Business Services or municipal building inspector to assess investigative fee, increased plan review fees and building permit fees if person commences project work without a required plan review or building permit. Provides limit and exemptions. Authorizes Department to bring suit to enforce compliance with state building code. Allows individual five days after commencement of emergency repair project to obtain building permit. Prohibits specialty code contractor activities without recognition as specialty code contractor. Defines terms for purposes of statutes authorizing denial of licensure.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recent efforts to increase consistency of regulatory authority across industry boards
- Maintaining existing standards while improving enforcement
- Making consistent the enforcement powers across regulated industries
- Proposed cap on fees to prevent excessive escalation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: The Building Codes Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services works with seven Governor-appointed boards on Boiler Rules, Building Codes Structures, Construction Industry Energy, Electrical and Elevator, Mechanical, Plumbing and Residential and Manufactured Structures to ensure construction in the state complies with the state building code. Each board has certain authority within its statutory jurisdiction, although legislation in recent sessions has established certain umbrella statutes relating to construction in Oregon, such as the umbrella contractor licensure bill, House Bill 3242 in 2007.

House Bill 2978 A establishes umbrella provisions for investigative fees and increased plan review and building permit fees if person commences work before obtaining a plan review or building permit. The bill authorizes the Department to bring suit to enforce compliance with the state building code, establishes a right of appeal for persons denied licensure, and prohibits specialty code contractor activities without recognition as specialty code contractor.