

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	6 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Edwards, Girod, Monroe, Starr, Thomsen, Beyer
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/2, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Changes date requirement for notice of change of address to Landscape Contractors Board from 10 days following change to 30 days following change. Specifies landscaping work valued at \$500 or more must be performed subject to written contract. Deletes requirement that applicants for renewal of license by Board demonstrate compliance with continuing education requirement adopted by Board. Specifies factors to be considered when Board considers assessing civil penalty and provides for remission or mitigation under certain circumstances. Makes imposition of penalties and sanctions optional rather than mandatory. Establishes Landscape Construction Professionals Task Force, charged with making recommendations to the Board on changes to administrative rules and to the Legislative Assembly on statutory changes necessary to ensure that licensees have necessary knowledge and skills. Requires Task Force to make recommendations to Legislative Assembly on whether to transfer powers of Board to Construction Contractors Board no later than convening of 2014 Legislative Session.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Landscape Contractors Board duties could be carried out by Construction Contractors Board
- Unnecessary regulation and continuing education requirements
- Significantly less regulation in Washington state
- Barriers to entry to new landscape contractors
- Cost of doing business as a landscape contractor

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the original measure.

BACKGROUND: The Landscape Contractors Board (LCB) was created in 1972 to license and regulate landscape contracting businesses and professionals. The Board establishes experience and education requirements and requires applicants to pass a competency exam prior to licensure. The Board also requires landscape contracting businesses to obtain a surety bond, submit evidence of liability insurance, and employ a licensed landscape construction professional. The Board is also responsible for receiving and investigating consumer complaints, fielding questions from consumers and from landscape professionals, and enforcing compliance with licensure requirements.

Senate Bill 557 makes numerous changes to the statutes governing professional landscape contractors and the Landscape Contractors Board. The measure establishes the Landscape Construction Professionals Task Force to determine if the powers of the Landscape Contractors Board should be transferred to the Construction Contractors Board. The Task Force is also charged with making recommendations on changes to administrative rules and statutes to ensure licensees have the necessary knowledge and skills.

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