

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:****Action:****Vote:**

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 2/18, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Reconstitutes the Well Construction Contractors Continuing Education Committee and statutory provisions related to continuing education programs for licensed water well constructors. Ratifies actions taken on or after January 7, 2014 and before effective date of measure. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Improper work on wells can lead to groundwater contamination
- Types of courses available to meet continuing education requirements
- Unintended consequences of Senate Bill 783 (2013)
- Voluntary training compared to mandatory training
- Licensure requirements for well drillers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment] Sunsets measure on January 2, 2022.

[minimal fiscal impact, no revenue impact on measure with the -1 amendment]

[-2 amendment] Sunsets measure on January 2, 2021. Specifies that the required number of continuing education credits may not exceed seven credits. Stipulates that if a Water Resources Commission rule requires more than seven credits during specified licensing periods then the applicant must obtain seven credits during the licensing period.

[minimal fiscal impact, no revenue impact on measure with the -2 amendment]

BACKGROUND: The Water Resources Department is the licensing agency for persons who construct, alter, convert or abandon water wells in Oregon. There are approximately 300,000 wells statewide, many of which provide drinking water. The Legislative Assembly created the Well Constructor Continuing Education Committee with the passage of Senate Bill 579 (2001) to require well constructors to complete education courses for renewal of their licenses. The Well Constructors Continuing Education Committee makes recommendations to the Water Resources Commission regarding the process for reviewing and approving continuing education requirements for licensed water well constructors. The continuing education requirement and continuing education committee were scheduled to sunset on January 2, 2014.

House Bill 4045 revives the Committee and the statutory provisions related to continuing education for well constructors.

HOSE FLOOR VOTE: 60-0

2/25/2014 12:55:00 PM *

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

Committee Services Form – 2014 Regular Session