



SB 580 Improves Landscape Contractor Regulatory Program

The Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA), the trade association for landscape professionals in Oregon, supports the adoption of SB 580. After the 2013 legislative session, Senate Business and Transportation Committee chair Lee Beyer appointed Senator Chuck Thomsen to convene a work group to address issues with the Oregon Landscape Contractors Board (LCB) and its regulations. The work group which included representatives from OCLA, other landscape organizations, LCB and the CCB, water purveyors and the League of Cities met a half-dozen times over 16 months. SB 580 is the product of that work group.

Some of the Changes Recommended in SB 580

- Clarifies activities a licensed landscape contracting business so they may plan, install, maintain or repair ornamental water features, drainage systems, irrigation systems, fences, decks, arbors, patios, landscape edging, driveways, walkways and retaining walls.
- Eliminates the requirement for written contracts when the contract amount is less than \$2,000.
- Caps civil penalties against contractors not to exceed \$2,000 and gives the licensing board broader discretion in dealing with compliance issues.
- Allows for a variety of procedural changes for the landscape licensing board including the process of filing complaints and stop work orders.
- Increases the time allowed for address change notification to LCB from 10 days to 30 days.
- Provides for increased bonding requirements of \$20,000 for landscape jobs that exceed \$50,000 which protects the licensed landscape contractor and consumer for a minimal cost.
- Reduces the number of continuing education hours (CEH) required for license renewal to 16 hours of CEH over a two year period for licensees with less than 5 years of experience as an active licensee and 8 hours every two years of CEH for active licensees with over 5 years of experience. This replaces the current requirement of 20 hours every 2 years.
- Permits licensed landscape contractors to remove or prune trees and install outdoor artificial turf excluding sports fields.
- Allows LCB and CCB licensees to work together more cooperatively to better serve the consumer.
- Increases the time allowed for address change notification to LCB from 10 days to 30 days.

*OLCA believes that passage of SB 580 would streamline some of the current regulations that have had an onerous impact on the landscape contracting industry while also enhancing consumer protection and the landscape contractors' ability to better serve the consumer. **We urge your vote for SB 580.***

