
Wednesday April 8, 2015
Shelley Sneed
Interim Administrator, Landscape Contractors Board
Testifying on behalf of HB 3304

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Barton and Kennemer,

My name is Shelley Sneed and I am the Interim Administrator for the Landscape Contractors Board. I am here today on behalf of the Board, which is the agency that will be charged with implementing this bill if it passes through the legislative process.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to state our agency and Board's commitment to participating in the legislative process and implementing the laws that are passed by the Oregon legislature.

Overall the agency has a few comments about the -1 amendments of the bill.

1. If the hands-on practical skills testing component is included in the final bill, it's likely that the agency will work with a third party organization to implement that component of the bill.
2. The agency would develop the business practices skills class that would focus on the laws and rules related to the agency and landscaping in Oregon and work with the third party organization to implement on the day of the hands-on testing.
3. This version of the bill would maintain the agency's existing qualifications for licensure, which were updated in the last two years and give a great deal of flexibility to qualify for licensure.
4. The National Association of Landscape Professionals, formerly known as PLANET, has landscape certification programs that allow hands on testing. Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA), currently offers those exams each year in July at the Clackamas Community College campus in Oregon City. It's likely that the Board would work with OLCA to use that annual testing format to immediately offer the hands-on testing. The Board would need to look at the testing options and determine which license phase would qualify for each exam. Over time, the Board would work with other interested parties around the state to determine if it is feasible to offer the hands on testing more frequently and at other locations.

The Board appreciates Representative Heard and Representative Nearman's work on this bill and providing new pathways for licensure for Oregonians wanting to own and operate licensed landscape contracting businesses.

The Board will continue to provide input and technical assistance to the committee as you review this bill. We are willing and able to help answer any questions that may arise during the movement of this bill through the legislative process.