

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Joint Committee On Ways and Means****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:****Action:****Meeting Dates:****Vote:****Prepared By:** Kim To, Fiscal Analyst**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows person applying for landscape construction professional license to satisfy examination requirement by either passing written examination or passing eight-hour skills test and attending six-hour business practices class. Requires Landscape Contractors Board to offer practical skills testing three weeks each year starting May 1, 2016. Directs Board to establish applicant fee to offset full cost of practical skills test and business practices class. Requires written examination to be translated to Spanish by January 1, 2016. Requires Board to report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2016, regarding implementation of practical skills test and business practices class. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Proposed amendment
- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes emergency clause; provides that practical skills test option applies to limited and specialty license; allows board to test the ability of an applicant to plan and install fences, decks, arbors, patios, landscape edging, driveways, walkways or retaining walls; prohibits board from testing the ability of an applicant to install backflow; requires board consult with the State Plumbing Board in developing any written and practical examinations for backflow assembly installer licenses; requires board to make any written backflow assembly installer licensing available with Spanish upon request of applicant; moves date that board must make the practical skills test available from January 1, 2016 to May 1, 2016; and moves date that board is required to report to the Legislative Assembly from September 15, 2016 to May 15, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

Created in 1972, the State Landscape Contractors Board licenses landscape contracting businesses and landscape construction professionals. Landscape construction professionals must meet experience and/or education requirements and pass a competency exam. Landscape contracting businesses must obtain a surety bond, submit evidence of liability insurance and employ or be owned by a licensed landscape construction professional. A landscape construction professional license applicant must pass an examination, and must have at least 24 months of employment with a landscape contracting business or at least 12 months of employment with a landscape contracting business with one full year of training in an area related to landscaping from an accredited school. A probationary license can be issued if the applicant does not meet the training and experience requirements but meets the requirements of a probationary license. An applicant for a landscape contracting business license must show proof that the owner or managing employee, if not a licensed landscape professional, has completed required courses and passed an examination.