

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

MEASURE: SB 297 A
CARRIER: Sen. Thomsen

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/25/15
Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Meeting Dates: 02/02, 02/25
Vote:
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen
Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows applicant seeking license to practice professional engineering, land surveying or photogrammetric mapping in Oregon to obtain qualifications for licensure in any order and make single application. Permits waiver of math, science and engineering examination for applicants that have been licensed in another jurisdiction for 25 years or more. Enables Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying to refuse registration to applicants who have violated statute, rule or standards in another jurisdiction that would be grounds for refusal, suspension or revocation in Oregon. Adds geomatic-based education programs for an entry into the photogrammetry profession. Identifies persons in responsible charge of photogrammetric mapping work. Broadens the work of photogrammetric mapping for responsible charge to include all work. Revises authority over fees consistent with proposed revisions. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Computer-based examinations
- Years of professional experience
- Reciprocity with other states and Canada
- Proposed amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Clarifies that an applicant holding a registration in another jurisdiction may apply for licensure in Oregon without taking the national examinations again. Reduces barriers to entry into the profession of photogrammetry by adding geomatic-based programs. Broadens the work of photogrammetric mapping for “responsible charge” to include all work as opposed to just project specifications.

BACKGROUND:

Licensure to practice professional engineering, land surveying or photogrammetric mapping in Oregon is currently a two-step process. An applicant must submit two different applications to the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS), in a specific order, to be eligible to sit for either of the required exams. The national organization that examines applicants nationwide in these disciplines is working toward moving the practice-based exams from a biannual paper format to a year-round, computer-based test. Senate Bill 297-A revises OSBEELS’ statutes to update and prepare for these examination changes. Similar changes are being made with other states’ boards that are adjusting procedures to synchronize with year-round, computer-based testing. While applicants would still need to meet current qualifications, the measure changes timing of submitting proof for requirements.

Senate Bill 297-A also contains a few housekeeping revisions consistent with proposed revisions.