

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/03/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/06, 06/03

Vote:

Yeas: 11 - Barreto, Barton, Doherty, Esquivel, Evans, Fagan, Heard, Holvey, Kennemer, Nosse, Weidner

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, 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. 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. Permits Board to waive examination requirement for applicants licensed in another jurisdiction for 25 years or more. 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 Board's authority over fees. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Whether hydrographers should be regulated and registered by Board
- Changes in technology have changed examination process
- Recognition of professionals licensed in other states

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Licensure to practice professional engineering, land surveying or photogrammetric mapping in Oregon is currently a two-step process. An applicant must submit an application to the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS), in order to obtain approval to register with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). After passing the exam, the applicant then applies again with OSBEELS for enrollment as an intern or registration as a professional. The NCEES is working toward moving the practice-based exams from a biannual paper format to a year-round, computer-based test.

Senate Bill 297-A allows the license applicant to obtain the necessary qualifications in the order most convenient to the applicant prior to applying for a license through OSBEELS. While applicants would still need to meet current qualifications, the measure changes timing of submitting proof for requirements. In addition to more minor changes, the measure also revises the statutes to prepare for changes being made by NCEES to the examination procedures.