

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/12/15

Action: Do Pass The B-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 06/12

Vote:

Senate

Yeas: 11 - Burdick, Devlin, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Roblan, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Exc: 1 - Girod

House

Yeas: 10 - Buckley, Gomberg, Huffman, Komp, Nathanson, Rayfield, Smith, Whisnant, Whitsett, Williamson

Exc: 2 - McLane, Read

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:**

No amendment.

**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.