

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/17/16

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/17

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Eliminates the requirement that the Landscape Contractors Board offer the option for a practical skills test for persons applying for landscape construction professional license or any limited or specialty license offered by the Board. Requires Board to offer a practical skills test option for at least two types of limited or specialty licenses. Reduces schedule for offering practical skills tests. Allows practical skills tests to include written multiple choice questions. Allows business practices classes to include a test but prohibits the Board from considering test results for conditioning or refusing to issue a license. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- House Bill 3304 (2015)
- Tests can be high hurdle to overcome without being accurate measure of competency
- Goal of licensing more people currently doing landscaping work

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 3304 (2015) to direct the Landscape Contractors Board to offer an alternative to a written test for those applying for a landscape construction professional license or a limited or specialty license. The alternative specified was passage of a practical skills test and attendance of a business practices class. The Board was directed to offer the practical skills test and business practices class three times per year, starting no later than September 2016. The Board formed a committee to help guide the implementation of House Bill 3304. The committee recommended that the existing examination used to certify landscape technicians be used as the practical skills test. This examination, which is owned by the National Association of Landscape Professionals, is offered annually by the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA). Testimony received by the Senate Workforce and General Government Committees indicates that the national association is in support of the OLCA sharing their license to use the certification test with the Landscape Contractors Board.

House Bill 4117 scales back the requirements set by House Bill 3304 (2015). Under this measure, the Board must provide a practical skills test and business practices course only for two types of limited or specialty licenses. Rather than offering the practical skills test and business practices class three times a year, the Board would be required to offer them only once every 12 months.