



Oregon

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Construction Contractors Board

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Senate Bill 25

Residential Contractor Continuing Education

In 2005, the Oregon Legislature created the Construction Claims Task Force to address increasing construction claims and rising contractor liability insurance premiums. The Task Force was directed to study and evaluate the causes of construction claims and issued a report of its findings and recommendations in January 2007. One of the Task Force recommendations was that in order to raise the quality of construction, contractors be required to take Building Envelope Training and be required to complete continuing education to maintain their licenses.

Beginning July 1, 2010, continuing education (CE) became mandatory for commercial contractors licensed by the CCB. Requirements for residential contractors took effect October 1, 2011. The existing requirements pose several problems for residential contractors and for CE providers. The CCB has fielded literally thousands of complaints about confusing requirements, irrelevant courses, too few choices, limited providers, and the costs of complying with the requirements.

During 2015, the CCB surveyed contractors and worked with stakeholders on proposed revisions to the requirements that would make CE for contractors more meaningful, flexible and cost effective. The Board approved an outline for change in August 2015, understanding that a combination of rule revisions and amendments to the statute would be needed to fully address these issues. The agency followed up with rule revisions in 2016 which dealt with some of the problems, including contractors licensed with multiple state agencies and faced with redundant CE requirements.

Senate Bill 25 will complete the necessary law change and facilitate the following changes:

- It will allow contractors more flexibility to choose the courses they consider the most beneficial and relevant to their businesses.
- It will allow the agency to offer the CCB-required CE hours at no additional cost to contractors, eliminating the fees currently charged.
- It will encourage participation in the program by more and varied CE providers, eliminating the fees currently charged to providers, and resulting in more course variety and availability.

Efficiency measures taken by the CCB over the past three years, and reductions of positions taken in the 2015-17 budget allows the agency to eliminate the fees associated with CE, reducing the costs to contractors and to CE providers. These fee reductions have been accounted for in our 2017-19 budget request.

The majority of construction contractors in Oregon believe some continuing education requirement is valuable. However, the vast majority agree they should be allowed to choose the courses they believe are most relevant and valuable to their businesses. Products and methods are changing rapidly in the industry,

and contractors want to remain knowledgeable and competitive in today's business environment. There are many high quality education opportunities for construction contractors.

The following comments from contractors are representative of the many thousands that we have received:

- Let me direct my learning. I know what I need and as a business owner, I work tirelessly to learn more things that will help me in my business. Let me apply classes I attend on my industry, certifications I earn, etc. It's awful to have to pay for classes that don't interest me and certainly don't further my self-guided and diligent education just to fulfill CCB requirements.
- Allow any type of education that involves our specialty.
- Give me more flexibility to get continuing education from other sources. I have learned a great deal at workshops offered by manufacturers and trade organizations that help me stay current on the latest innovations and trends. This helps me more than some of the outdated online training classes.
- Allow businesses to become further educated in the areas they believe are relevant to their business.
- Allow license holders to apply manufacturers' training to continuing education requirements.
- Waste of time and money. Since I am just an excavation contractor lots of classes were not applicable to me, nor will I ever use.
- As a tree service contractor, I find the new education requirements to be expensive and without material tailored to my trade industry. Allowing education from the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) should be standard.
- I think the CE is a waste of time and money. When a contractor is trying to bounce back from a few years of financial setback due to the industry, it's just too much at times. PS: the staff at CCB are ALWAYS nice, happy and eager to help. Thank you for that.
- For someone that has been in business for long time the education part is redundant and a waste of time. If you don't know what you're doing after 20 years, you're in the wrong business.
- Make education classes free.
- More continuing education programs by the CCB (not someone else).
- Confusing continuing education requirements.
- Five extra hours that were also required for renewal were not applicable and just busy work!
- The continued education just seems to be a money taker. I don't think it is being done properly. Needs fixed or discontinued. Stop taking my hard earned money.
- More training/continuing education opportunities and much more of a variety.
- Make us exempt from your education requirements or make the education better so we actually learn something. We have had a contractor license for 30 years. Your education classes are too easy and do not teach us anything new.
- Better continuing education classes for experienced general contractors.

The goal of continuing education is that contractors stay informed and up to date on the latest in construction products and methods, and are knowledgeable about the laws governing the construction industry in Oregon. Passage of SB 25 will facilitate revising the requirements to allow contractors to take relevant, up-to-date courses in the latest construction practices, products, and business technologies, resulting in better informed, better qualified contractors serving the public in Oregon.