

Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

SB 43

Continuing Education Authority

With SB 43, OSBGE seeks the statutory authority to establish continuing education requirements for geologist licensure. The purpose of continuing education is to better ensure that all geologists licensed to practice in Oregon maintain a high level of proficiency within their discipline and stay current with new developments related to the practice of geology. Licensed geologists provide critical services to the public and need to stay current with new science and technologies so the citizens of Oregon and Oregon resources can best be protected. OSBGE finds that as the field of geology continues to expand, important new information requires that licensed geologists find new ways to access, share, and apply this information in public practice. As Oregon continues to develop in rural and urban areas and Oregonians continue to demand wise use of natural resources and landscapes, the accurate assessment of geologic conditions will be increasingly important.

SB 43 is designed to provide OSBGE with the authority to develop a continuing education program with details to then be defined in administrative rules. The statutory change is of a housekeeping nature, bringing OSBGE in alignment with the vast majority of Oregon licensure boards that already require continuing education as part of licensure. By defining program details through rulemaking, OSBGE will have the necessary flexibility to manage the continuing education component of licensure over the long-term. Continuing education requirements should result in Oregon licensed geologists being better equipped to practice in a manner protective of public health, safety, and welfare. Continuing education requirements will be designed to be fair and flexible, understandable, and reasonable. OSBGE would allow individuals to select from a wide range of educational opportunities to find those best suited to their individual practice and business needs.

In its current role, OSBGE manages a system in which geologists can maintain licensure simply by making timely payments without any review of practice and ongoing competency unless a potential violation is brought to the attention of the Board. This is an entirely reactive approach to regulation of the profession. Absent a continuing education requirement, the Board has no ability to assess whether licensed geologists are reviewing new information, sharing this new information with others, and implementing new science and techniques in their practice in Oregon. Continuing education as part of licensure renewal would be a more proactive way to maintain and improve the competency of geologists that practice in Oregon.

OSBGE does not anticipate that continuing education requirements associated with geologist licensure renewal will result in any racial or ethnic inequalities. Individuals would not be subject to continuing education until after licensure, thereby not impacting the path to licensure. Furthermore, OSBGE would set the program details in rules, an approach that allows for development of continuing education requirements in a manner that provides licensed geologists flexibility to complete various types of continuing education activities. This means that geologists working in any part of Oregon and in any size business could choose activities that are reasonably accessible and cost effective.

Examples of Professions with Continuing Education Requirements for Licensure

Construction & Design	Health-Related	Other Professions
Architects	Athletic Trainers	Accountants
Construction Contractors	Certified Advanced Estheticians	Appraisers
Engineers	Chiropractors	Lawyers
Landscape Architects	Counselors & Therapists	Real Estate Agents
Landscape Contractors	Dentists	Social Workers
Land Surveyors	Denturists	Tax Practitioners
Photogrammetrists	Dietitians	Teachers
Water Rights Examiners	Electrologists/Body Art Practitioners	Veterinarians
	Massage Therapists	
<i>Proposed:</i>	Medical Doctors	
<i>Geologists & Engineering Geologists</i>	Medical Imaging Technologists	
	Midwives	
	Naturopathic Physicians	
	Nurses	
	Occupational Therapists	
	Optometrists	
	Pharmacists	
	Physical Therapists	
	Psychologists	
	Respiratory Therapists	

Information Source: <https://www.oregon.gov>, 11/2018