

# Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

## SB 44

### Housekeeping Updates – Specialty Licensure & Administration

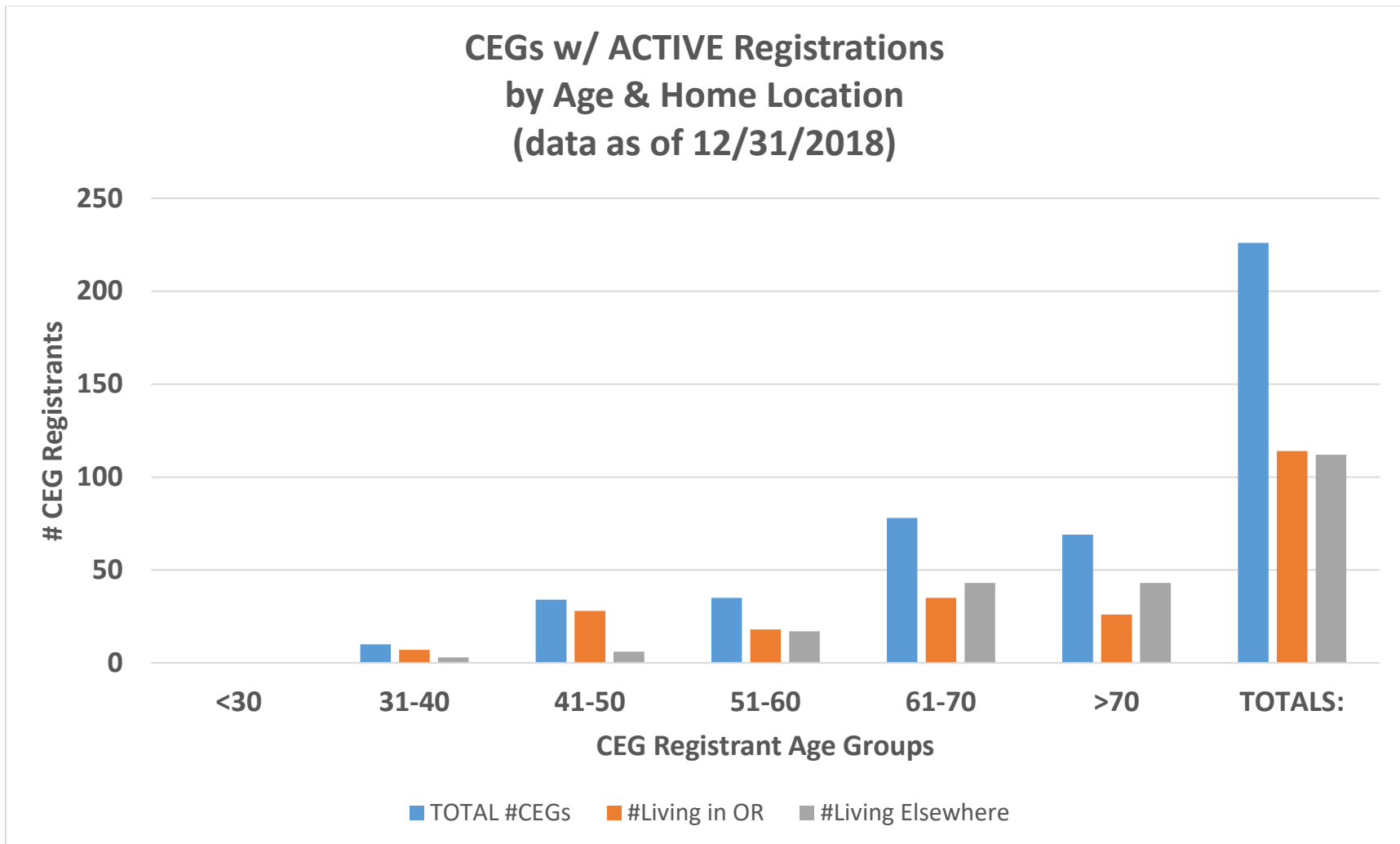
The primary purpose of SB 44 is to give OSBGE the ability to address an existing barrier to the specialty registration for practice of engineering geology. A licensed geologist cannot practice engineering geology in Oregon without holding a specialty registration (Certified Engineering Geologist or CEG). The CEG registration requires passage of an engineering geology exam and demonstration of qualifying work experience. Statute currently limits OSBGE to accepting supervised work experience obtained only under the oversight of a licensed engineering geologist. OSBGE periodically hears from members of the geology and engineering professional communities that the requirement to work only under the supervision of a licensed engineering geologist is a barrier. OSBGE data show that many CEGs are older and may actually be retired from day-to-day practice. In addition, about half of Oregon's CEGs live out of state, further limiting work supervision opportunities for Oregon licensed geologists seeking CEG registration. OSBGE has also seen a decrease in the number of individuals approved to sit for the engineering geology exam and very few new CEG registrations issued in recent years. Some smaller firms do not have licensed engineering geologists that can supervise work but do have a licensed engineer with experience and expertise in geotechnical engineering.

With the proposed statutory revisions, OSBGE would gain the flexibility to set new standards for qualifying work experience in administrative rule. OSBGE could then define when a licensed geologist's work experience supervised by a Professional Engineer could count towards the minimum work experience required for the CEG registration. The statutory change would not alter the minimum number of years of work experience required but would allow OSBGE to work with the geology and engineering professional communities to provide some reasonable allowance for supervision under a Professional Engineer with expertise in geotechnical engineering. OSBGE believes this makes sense given the substantial professional overlap between the geotechnical engineering and engineering geology professions. Other work experience alternatives could also be considered.

OSBGE does not anticipate any negative impacts on public health, safety and welfare as licensed geologists would still have to meet exam and experience requirements to obtain the specialty license. However, if this solution is not pursued, Oregon could see a future shortage of CEGs. The public then might not have sufficient access to professionals with engineering geology expertise or may have to hire from out of state. In addition, OSBGE could see a rise in engineering geology practice without appropriate licensure.

OSBGE does not anticipate any racial or ethnic inequalities to result from the proposed broadening of qualifying experience for the CEG. The purpose is to remove a potential barrier in the path to the specialty license. The requirements to obtain the underlying geologist license would not change. The change would potentially benefit licensed geologists working in smaller firms or remote offices where there is no potential for supervision under a CEG.

SB 44 also contains a statutory revision to clarify that OSBGE has the option of appointing a full or part-time administrator or obtaining administrator services via interagency agreement. Given the limited size of the geologist licensure pool, associated budget restrictions, and operational needs, this revision will clarify that OSBGE has access to various staffing options.



## CEGs with Active Registrations (as of 12.31.18)

AGE GROUP	TOTAL #CEGs	% of Total	#Living in OR	#Living Elsewhere
<30	0	00.0%	0	0
31-40	10	04.4%	7	3
41-50	34	15.1%	28	6
51-60	35	15.5%	18	17
61-70	78	34.5%	35	43
>70	69	30.5%	26	43
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>112</b>

CEGs age 61 or older

147

61

86

CEGS age 60 or younger

79

53

26