

SB 44 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 1/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes State Board of Geologist Examiners to enter into interagency agreement with another state agency to provide for the sharing of an administrator. Deletes required work experience for specialty certifications. Allows board to create committees to establish qualifications and scope of practice for specialty certifications.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners regulates the practice of geology in Oregon. Registered geologists locate, describe, and evaluate geologic resources and features and advise on the extraction of natural resources and remedies for geological hazards. Current statute requires the board to appoint an administrator who is responsible for administering and enforcing the standards established in statute and adopted by the board. Senate Bill 44 allows the board to share an administrator with another state agency through an interagency agreement.

Current statute also requires an individual seeking specialty certification as an engineering geologist to complete work experience under an individual that holds the same certification. According to the agency, there are insufficient certified engineering geologists to provide supervised work experience and more flexibility is necessary to ensure applicants can obtain that specialty certification. Senate Bill 44 deletes specified work experience for specialty certifications and allows the board discretion to use committees to establish qualifications and scope of work for specialty certifications.