

SB 43 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 1/24, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows State Board of Geologist Examiners to establish or approve continuing education requirements for registered geologists. Requires demonstration of compliance with continuing education requirements prior to renewal.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of the board and statutory authority to require continuing education.
- Electronic delivery of continuing education.
- Reasonable requirements for continuing education.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Limits continuing education to no more than eight hours per year.

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.

An applicant seeking to become a registered geologist must demonstrate the completion of specified geological coursework, three years of geological work experience, and passage of a national exam. Registration must be renewed annually. Current statute does not require the completion of continuing education prior to renewal. Senate Bill 43 allows the board to establish continuing education requirements registered geologists must meet prior to renewal. The agency believes that continuing education will make licensed geologists better equipped to practice in a manner protective of public health, safety, and welfare.