

Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

SB 44

Housekeeping Updates – Specialty Licensure & Administration

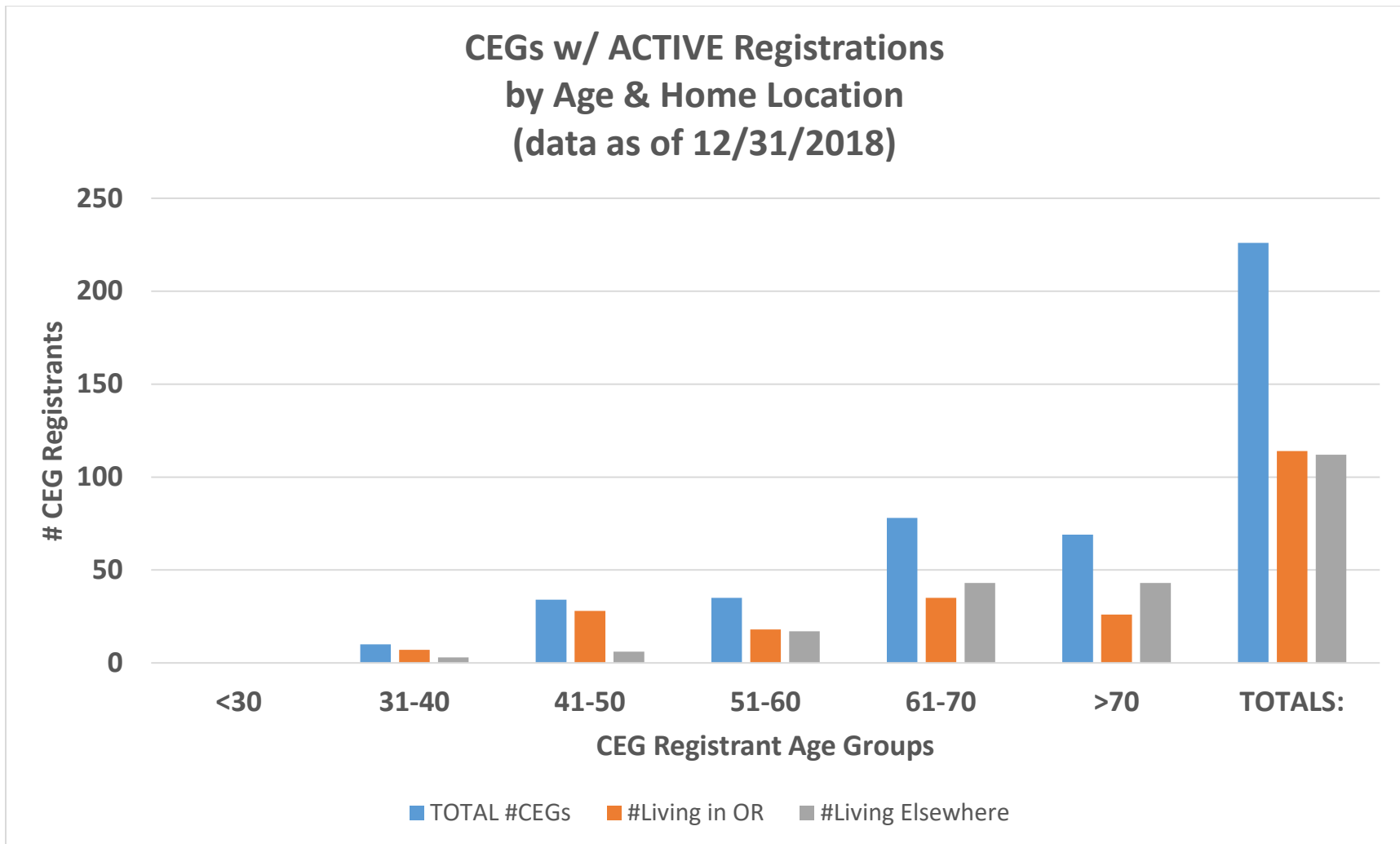
The primary purpose of SB 44 is to give OSBGE the ability to address an existing barrier to the specialty registration for practice of engineering geology. A licensed geologist cannot practice engineering geology in Oregon without holding a specialty registration (Certified Engineering Geologist or CEG). The CEG registration requires passage of an extra engineering geology exam and demonstration of qualifying work experience in the field. Statute currently limits OSBGE to accepting only supervised work experience obtained 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 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 licensed geologists in Oregon 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 Professional Engineer with experience and expertise in geotechnical engineering.

With the proposed statutory revisions, OSBGE would gain the flexibility to set new standards for CEG 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 the base education, exam and experience requirements for the Registered Geologist license and then also pass a rigorous specialty exam plus show specialized experience to obtain the specialty CEG license. If a 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 Oregon licensed CEGs from out of state. In addition, OSBGE could see a rise in engineering geology practice without appropriate licensure.

OSBGE does not anticipate any financial, 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 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
TOTALS:	226	100%	114	112

CEGs age 61 or older

147

61

86

CEGS age 60 or younger

79

53

26

Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners
Current Entry Standards for Registered Geologist (RG) and Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG)

MINIMUM ENTRY STANDARDS (all new RGs)	Registered Geologist (RG)
<i>minimum of 7 yrs of geology experience</i>	ORS 672.555 OAR 809-030-0015
Education	Minimum of 45 quarter hrs geology coursework incl. 36 quarter hrs upper division or graduate course hrs (=2 yrs)
Max. 4 yrs for combined undergrad. & grad. educ.	1 yr for each yr full-time graduate study in geology or a related geological science (if not used to meet 45 quarter hr requirement)
Exam	ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology <u>and</u> ASBOG Practice of Geology
Experience	
Option 1 MUST HAVE MINIMUM 3 YRS TO GET ANY CREDIT	1 yr for each yr spent working under supervision of RG, CEG, or geologist who, in the determination of the Board, was providing supervision in responsible charge
Option 2 MUST HAVE MINIMUM 5 YEARS TO GET ANY CREDIT	1 yr for each yr spent in responsible charge (e.g., licensed in another state, federal or tribal govt. employment, work experience in state without licensure)

A REGISTERED GEOLOGIST (RG) MUST MEET ALL OF THE ABOVE STANDARDS IN ORANGE.

All must meet minimum entry standards. Cannot obtain CEG w/out meeting the RG standards.

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS (All new CEGs must be RGs first.)	Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG)
	ORS 672.565 OAR 809-030-0020
Education	No additional coursework required is required for the specialty
Exam	OR/WA Engineering Geology exam <u>or</u> CA Engineering Geology exam
Experience	
Option A MUST HAVE MINIMUM 3 YRS TO GET ANY CREDIT	1 yr for each yr. spent working under supervision of OR, CA, or WA CEG or an engineering geologist who, in the determination of the Board, was providing supervision in responsible charge. Experience in engineering geology used to meet geologist qualifications may be used.
Option B MUST HAVE MINIMUM 5 YRS TO GET ANY CREDIT	1 yr for each yr. spent working in responsible charge (e.g., licensed in another state, federal or tribal employment, work in state without licensure) of engineering geological projects. Experience in engineering geology used to meet geologist qualifications may be used.
Option C NO SPECIFIC COMBO OF EXPERIENCE TYPES REQUIRED	5 yrs of work experience from a combination of Option 1 and Option 2. Experience in engineering geology used to meet geologist qualifications may be used.

A CERTIFIED ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST (CEG) MUST MEET ALL OF THE STANDARDS IN ORANGE PLUS THE ADDITIONAL STANDARDS ABOVE IN BLUE

