

SB 94 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Jama**Senate Committee On Labor and Business****Action Date:** 02/04/21**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Hansell, Jama, Kennemer, Lieber, Riley**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 1/26, 2/4**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Removes requirement for Landscape Contractors Board (LCB) to supply site for practical skills test and conduct test within an eight-hour period on a single day. Clarifies that practical skills test is used to determine if applicant has the minimum knowledge required to perform tasks commonly required of a licensee. Establishes that practical skills test is established and offered at the discretion of LCB and may be hands on, written, or electronic. Establishes that exam may be handwritten or electronic. Clarifies that practical skills test is offered in conjunction with business practices class. Removes criteria for evaluating practical skills test and requirement to align schedule of business practices class with practical skills exam. Requires LCB to offer class on landscape contracting business practices at least once every 12 months.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefit of practical skills test for license applicants
- Need for flexible, electronic exam and skills test options

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Provides that practical skills test is established and offered at the discretion of LCB and may be hands on, written, or electronic. Establishes that exam may be handwritten or electronic. Clarifies that practical skills test is offered in conjunction with business practices class. Removes criteria for evaluating practical skills test and requirement to align schedule of business practices class with practical skills exam.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law prohibits a person from operating as a landscape construction professional (LCP) without a valid license from the Oregon Landscape Contractors Board (LCB). Applicants for the LCP license must pass an examination administered by the board. Current law requires LCB to provide a practical skills test for at least two types of LCP license. When available, the agency must give an applicant the option of satisfying the written examination requirement by passing the practical skills test. For applicants who choose the practical skills test, LCB must provide a class on landscape contracting business practices. The practical skills test must be conducted within an eight-hour period in a single day at a site provided by LCB that is protected from extreme temperatures and weather.

Senate Bill 94A gives LCB greater flexibility in conducting the practical skills test, allowing the test to be hands-on, handwritten, or electronic, and removing provisions tailored to the single-day, on-site test. The measure also allows license exams to be either electronic or handwritten.