

HB 2415 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Carrier: Sen. Anderson

Action Date: 05/18/21
Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Anderson, Golden, Jama, Patterson
Nays: 1 - Linthicum
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Devin Edwards, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to establish minimum standards for reviewing construction or building plans, issuing permits, and performing field inspections as part of its electronic processing of building permits (ePermitting). Mandates municipalities' and other public bodies' use of ePermitting or equivalent. Requires ePermitting to process application fees for permits; receipt of plan approvals and permits; receipt of requests for inspections; and performance of electronic field inspections, construction progress inspections, and onsite verification of building code compliance. Operative January 1, 2025. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Local government involvement in policymaking process
- Impact on municipalities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Most contractors licensed in Oregon can use an online permitting process for their building projects, called ePermitting, operated by the Building Codes Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). Use of the ePermitting system by local governments is currently voluntary, and they determine which permits are accessible electronically. The system is funded by a surcharge equal to four percent of permit application fees paid by all contractors regardless of whether a particular local government uses the system.

House Bill 2415 A requires DCBS to establish minimum standards for reviewing plans, issuing permits, and performing field inspections electronically. It requires municipalities and other public bodies to use the ePermitting system (or an equivalent that meets minimum standards adopted by DCBS) by January 1, 2025. Finally, it requires the ePermitting system to incorporate payments for permit applications; receipt of plan approvals and permits; requests for inspections; and performance of electronic field inspections, construction progress inspections, and onsite verification of building code compliance.