

HB 3343 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Taylor

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 05/10/23

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 3-1-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Golden, Prozanski, Taylor

Nays: 1 - Smith DB

Exc: 1 - Girod

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/3, 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies qualifications to receive a water well constructor's license to only require evidence that a person has completed certain kinds of professional welding training if the evidence is required under rules adopted by the Oregon Water Resources Commission (Commission) that are based on the type of well. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current Commission rulemaking process to implement House Bill 2145 (2021)
- Examples of wells that require welding, and examples of wells that do not require welding
- Department discretion over which types of wells require welding experience

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) oversees a state well construction program to ensure that wells are properly constructed, altered, maintained, and decommissioned to prevent contamination, loss of pressure, and waste of ground water resources. OWRD licenses well drillers, administers a continuing education program, enforces well construction standards, issues special standards, accepts "start cards" from drillers for beginning work and receives "well logs" when work is complete, and inspects wells and work on wells for deficiencies.

Individuals are qualified under Oregon law to receive a water well constructor's license if the person is at least 18 years old, has passed a written examination, has paid license and examination fees, and has at least one year of experience operating well drilling machinery. In 2021, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2145 to modernize the well construction program, and created an additional requirement that an individual seeking a license must provide evidence that they have completed a welding training course from a community college, received a professional welding certification, passed a welding proficiency test, or otherwise completed sufficient professional welding training.

House Bill 3343 A would modify training-related qualifications to receive a water well constructor's license to only require evidence that a person has completed certain kinds of professional welding training if the evidence is required under rules adopted by the Oregon Water Resources Commission.