

HB 3502 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Meeting Dates: 3/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure makes permanent provisions that make individuals eligible to apply for certification as water right examiners if they have been employed by an irrigation district, drainage district, water improvement district, or water control district for seven or more years and have seven or more years of relevant technical experience conducting similar work.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment specifies that district employees may not provide services as a water right examiner to anyone other than the district they are employed by.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

Water right transactions and transfers in Oregon are managed by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and require approval from certified water right examiners (CWREs). To obtain a CWRE license, individuals must pass an exam administered by OWRD and receive certification from the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying. In 2023, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed [House Bill 3187](#), allowing individuals with seven or more years of experience in relevant technical work within an irrigation district, drainage district, water improvement district, or water control district to apply for CWRE certification. This temporary provision is set to expire on July 1, 2027, at which point eligibility to register for the CWRE exam will revert to registered geologists, professional engineers, and land surveyors.