

**SB 1061 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Carrier: Rep. Owens

**House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water****Action Date:** 05/19/25**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)**Vote:** 8-1-0-0**Yeas:** 8 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Owens**Nays:** 1 - Scharf**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 5/12, 5/19**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure requires the Director of the Oregon State University Extension Service to establish a lumber grading training pilot program and directs the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business services to establish a process by which lumber graded under the pilot program may be obtained and used.

Detailed Summary:

- Requires the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service, in consultation with the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), to establish a basic lumber grading training pilot program that would be offered annually through the OSU Extension Service.
- Requires the pilot program to include requirements for successful program completion, certification, and recertification and, at minimum, the following content:
  - Eight instructional hours, including hands-on practice and
  - Instruction in regionally relevant species identification, moisture content considerations, and visual grading criteria for structural dimension lumber.
- Requires the pilot program to include certification requirements for instructors who must:
  - Demonstrate substantial expertise in visual lumber grading through a valid grader certification, seven years of relevant professional experience, or equivalent qualifications as approved by the OSU Extension Service, and
  - Maintain continued competency through industry involvement, refresher coursework, or other methods as approved by the OSU Extension Service.
- Directs the OSU Extension Service to issue certifications and recertifications to individuals who successfully complete the pilot program.
- Requires recertification every five years.
- Directs DCBS to establish by rule a process for a builder, designer, or owner to use lumber that is tested and approved by an individual who is certified under this pilot program. Specifies that the rule making process:
  - May not establish, create, or accept new grade or design value as part of Oregon's building code.
  - Must permit the use of self-graded lumber only for structures subject to the Oregon Residential Specialty Code.
  - Must require the intention to use self-graded lumber to be disclosed in the building permit application.
  - Must require self-graded lumber to originate from a known source, requiring a documented relationship or permit between the lumber owner and the purchaser of the milled lumber.
- Exempts manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, or graders of third-party grader lumber from liability in whole or in part for failure of or defects in self-graded lumber in structures subject to the Oregon Residential Specialty Code.
- Sunsets the pilot program on January 2, 2033.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

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- Oregon State University Extension's proposed role in the pilot program
- Closure of papermills in Oregon since 2024
- Fiscal impact of the measure
- Current regulation regarding the use of self-graded lumber on one's own property
- Enforcement of current lumber regulations
- Successful implementation of similar programs in other states
- Grading requirements for reclaimed lumber
- Liability protections for lumber graders
- Traceability of self-graded lumber and transparency regarding its use
- Safety concerns regarding self-graded lumber
- Intention of the committee to obtain a report on the efficacy of the pilot program

### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

The amendment corrects a grammatical sentence construction.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Lumber grading involves systematically assessing wood to determine its quality, strength, and visual characteristics. Generally, this assessment is done by trained inspectors using standardized criteria to assign a grade to such conditions as knots, grain patterns, and defects. Under current law, lumber not graded by a trained and certified inspector can only be used in very limited circumstances for structures such as sheds. The Oregon Residential Specialty Code governs the construction, reconstruction, or repair of single and two-family dwellings and townhouses.