

SB 44 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Girod

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

Action Date: 01/24/19

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 3-1-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Girod, Riley

Nays: 1 - Olsen

Exc: 1 - Hass

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes State Board of Geologist Examiners to enter into interagency agreement with another state agency to provide for the sharing of an administrator. Deletes required work experience for specialty certifications. Allows board to create committees to establish qualifications and scope of practice for specialty certifications.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Certification standards for engineering geologists
- Shortage of and projected demographics for certified engineering geologists

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners regulates the practice of geology in Oregon. Registered geologists locate, describe, and evaluate geologic resources and features and advise on the extraction of natural resources and remedies for geological hazards. Current statute requires the board to appoint an administrator who is responsible for administering and enforcing the standards established in statute and adopted by the board. The board currently shares an administrator with another agency through an interagency agreement. Senate Bill 44 codifies this arrangement.

Current statute also requires an individual seeking specialty certification as an engineering geologist to complete work experience under an individual who holds the same certification. According to the agency, there are insufficient certified engineering geologists within the state to provide supervised work experience and more flexibility is necessary to ensure applicants can obtain that specialty certification. Senate Bill 44 deletes specified work experience for specialty certifications and allows the board discretion to use committees to establish qualifications and scope of work for specialty certifications.