

HB 3187 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Owens

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

Action Date: 03/14/23

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-1-1-0

Yeas: 7 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens

Nays: 1 - Gamba

Exc: 1 - Scharf

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/14, 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Makes 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Alternative degree requirements and pathways that are already part of statute
- Possibility of potential conflicts of interest
- Current accountability of irrigation districts by means of regulation and reporting requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires a district employee to additionally have seven or more years of relevant technical experience conducting similar work in order to be eligible to apply for certification as water right examiner.

BACKGROUND:

Water right transactions and transfers are processed by the Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD) and approved by certified water right examiners (CWREs). The CWRE license can be obtained from the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying after successful completion of the CWRE exam administered by OWRD. Currently, registration for the CWRE exam is open to registered geologists, professional engineers, and land surveyors. As of this year, there are 217 CWREs in Oregon, 30 percent of which are located within the Portland metro area.

House Bill 3187 A makes 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.