

HB 3700 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure permits the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to adopt rules to provide sewage treatment certification to individuals who are certified in another state. The measure also permits the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules to provide water treatment certification to individuals who are certified in another state. It requires the standards adopted by the EQC and the OHA regarding the relevant certification to ensure that anyone receiving an equivalent certification has appropriate education and experience. It declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

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:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Water systems operators for wastewater and for drinking water are certified by separate agencies in Oregon. The [Oregon Department of Environmental Quality \(DEQ\)](#) administers the Wastewater Operator Certification Program, which certifies domestic wastewater system operators, who manage sewage systems. Oregon Drinking Water Services (DWS) at the [Oregon Health Authority \(OHA\)](#) separately administers the certification program for drinking water system operators.

Each biennium, OHA and DEQ submit a joint report to the Legislative Assembly on [Certification Programs for Water and Wastewater System Operators](#). The most recent report, published January 2025, provides information and updates on the two certification programs, as well as data on the number of certificates and systems requiring certified operators.