
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1146

Brief Description: Concerning certified water right examiner bonding requirements.

Sponsors: Representatives Nealey, Blake, Chandler, Lytton, Warnick, Schmick, Walsh, Ryu and Haler.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires certified water right examiners to furnish evidence of insurance or financial responsibility, replacing the specific bonding requirement.

Hearing Date: 1/31/13

Staff: Cherlyn Walden (786-7296).

Background:

The Department of Ecology (Department) is required to establish and maintain a list of certified water right examiners. In order to qualify as a water right examiner, an individual must be registered as a professional engineer, professional land surveyor, or registered hydrogeologist, or must demonstrate at least five years of applicable experience to the Department, or be a member of a water conservancy board. Qualified individuals must also pass a written examination in order to become certified.

Certified water right examiners are required to complete eight hours of qualifying continuing education in the water resources field each year, and must be bonded for at least \$50,000. The Department has the authority to suspend or revoke certification based on poor performance, malfeasance, failure to acquire continuing education credits, or excessive complains from examiner's customers.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

Certified water right examiners are required to furnish evidence of insurance or financial responsibility in a form acceptable to the Department of Ecology. This replaces the former requirement that each certified water right examiner be bonded for at least \$50,000.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Received.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.