

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1146

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning certified water right examiner bonding requirements.

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

House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development

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 hydrogeologist, or 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 certifications based on poor performance, malfeasance, failure to acquire continuing education credits, or excessive complaints from examiner's customers.

Summary:

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

Votes on Final Passage:

House	98	0
Senate	47	1

Effective: July 28, 2013

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