House Bill 2391

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND RULES (at the request of Oregon Landscape Contractors Association)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.**

Creates licensing system for landscape maintenance businesses and landscape maintenance contractors. Prohibits unlicensed landscape maintenance contractor and landscape maintenance business activity after July 1, 2006. Makes violation subject to maximum penalty of one year's imprisonment, \$6,250 fine, or both. Provides exception. Makes violators subject to civil penalty not exceeding \$2,000. Makes violation of restrictions involving independent contractors subject to progressive schedule of sanctions.

Expands definition of landscape contractor.

Clarifies misdemeanor classification for unlicensed landscaping activity. Changes reference to violations for which board may seek injunction.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

- 2 Relating to State Landscape Contractors Board; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 671.321,
- 3 671.520, 671.525, 671.530, 671.540, 671.550, 671.555, 671.565, 671.570, 671.575, 671.580, 671.590,
- 4 671.603, 671.610, 671.613, 671.625, 671.650, 671.660, 671.690, 671.700, 671.703, 671.707, 671.710,
- 5 671.955, 671.990 and 701.005.

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- 6 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
- SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 4 of this 2005 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 671.510 to 671.710.
 - <u>SECTION 2.</u> (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a person may not operate as a landscape maintenance contractor unless the person has a valid landscape maintenance contractor license issued under section 3 of this 2005 Act.
 - (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a person may not represent in any manner that the person is a landscape maintenance contractor unless the person has a valid landscape maintenance contractor license issued under section 3 of this 2005 Act. The prohibition in this subsection includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Using the title of landscape maintenance contractor or any other title that indicates or tends to indicate that the person is a landscape maintenance contractor; and
 - (b) Using any sign, card or device that indicates or tends to indicate that the person is a landscape maintenance contractor.
 - (3) A landscape contractor licensed under ORS 671.560 may perform any work that could be performed by a landscape maintenance contractor. The landscape contractor may represent that the contractor provides landscape maintenance services.
 - (4) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, a person may not operate as a landscape maintenance business in this state unless the person has a valid landscape maintenance business license issued under section 4 of this 2005 Act.
 - (5) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, a person may not advertise or represent in any manner that the person is a landscape maintenance business unless the

- person has a valid landscape maintenance business license issued under section 4 of this 2005 Act. The prohibition in this subsection includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) Using the title of landscape maintenance business or landscaping maintenance business or any other title that indicates or tends to indicate that the person is a landscape maintenance business; and
- (b) Using any sign, card or device that indicates or tends to indicate that the person is a landscape maintenance business.
- (6) A landscaping business licensed under ORS 671.560 may engage in any activity that a landscape maintenance business may engage in. The landscaping business may advertise or otherwise represent that the business provides landscape maintenance services.
- <u>SECTION 3.</u> (1) To obtain a license as a landscape maintenance contractor, except as provided in ORS 671.590, a person must pass an examination administered by the State Landscape Contractors Board, pay the required fees and meet experience or training requirements as established by the board by rule.
- (2) A person renewing a landscape maintenance contractor license and engaged in performing landscape maintenance work must submit the name of the person's employer.
- (3) A landscape maintenance contractor is authorized to perform landscaping work only while in the employ of a landscape maintenance business licensed and bonded as required by ORS 671.510 to 671.710. If the landscape maintenance contractor is the sole proprietor, the contractor must also obtain a license as a landscape maintenance business.
- <u>SECTION 4.</u> (1) The State Landscape Contractors Board shall issue a landscape maintenance business license to an applicant who complies with this section and satisfies the requirements established by the board by rule.
 - (2) An applicant for a license under this section shall:
 - (a) Apply to the board upon a form furnished by the board.
 - (b) Provide any information the board considers necessary.
 - (c) Pay to the board the fees required by ORS 671.570 and 671.650.
- (d) Employ at least one person with a landscape maintenance contractor license to supervise the landscape maintenance operation of the business.
 - (e) File with the board the surety bond required under ORS 671.690.
- (f) Indicate, as set forth in ORS 670.600, the basis under which the applicant qualifies as an independent contractor.
- (g) If renewing a license, submit the names of all employees who are licensed landscape maintenance contractors.
- (3) A landscape maintenance business shall, throughout the license period, have in effect public liability, personal injury and property damage insurance covering the work of the landscape maintenance business that is subject to ORS 671.510 to 671.710 for an amount not less than \$100,000. The landscape maintenance business shall provide satisfactory evidence to the board at the time of application and renewal that the insurance required by this section has been procured and is in effect.
- (4) A landscape maintenance business may use a form of the word "landscape" in the title of the business only if the title clearly indicates the maintenance nature of the business. For purposes of this subsection, the term "landscape gardening" does not indicate the maintenance nature of a landscape maintenance business.
 - SECTION 5. ORS 671.321 is amended to read:

- 671.321. (1) ORS 671.310 to 671.459, 671.950 and 671.992 do not restrict or otherwise affect the right of any person to:
 - (a) Practice architecture under ORS 671.010 to 671.220;
 - (b) Practice engineering under ORS 672.002 to 672.325;

- (c) Engage in the occupation of growing and marketing nursery stock, or use the title "nurseryman" or "landscape nurseryman";
 - (d) Operate as a landscape contractor, [or] landscaping business, landscape maintenance contractor or landscape maintenance business under ORS 671.510 to 671.710 or use the title "landscape contractor" or "landscape maintenance contractor";
 - (e) Perform work described under ORS 671.540;
 - (f) Engage in making plans or drawings for the selection, placement or use of plants or other site features unless the plans or drawings are for the purpose of providing construction details and specifications not otherwise exempted;
 - (g) Use the title "landscape designer" in connection with activities described under paragraph (f) of this subsection;
 - (h) Make any plans, drawings or specifications for property owned by that person; or
 - (i) Provide recommendations or written specifications for soil amendments or planting mediums if the recommendations or specifications are solely for purposes of plant installation and do not significantly alter the stability of the soil profile or surface drainage patterns.
 - (2) The scope of services described in ORS 671.310 (5) and (6) does not preclude a registered landscape architect from:
 - (a) Planning the development of land areas and elements used on land areas; or
 - (b) Performing services described in ORS 671.310 (5) and (6) in connection with the settings, approaches or environment for buildings, structures or facilities in accordance with legally established standards for public health, safety and welfare.
 - (3) ORS 671.310 to 671.459, 671.950 and 671.992 do not apply to:
 - (a) The preparation of detailed or shop drawings that a construction contractor is required to furnish or the administration of construction contracts by a person customarily engaged in contracting work.
 - (b) The preparation of technical submissions or the administration of construction contracts by employees of a landscape architect or a landscape architecture business when acting under the direct supervision of a registered landscape architect.
 - (c) Employees of the federal government acting within the scope of that employment.
 - **SECTION 6.** ORS 671.520 is amended to read:
 - 671.520. As used in ORS 671.510 to 671.710, unless the context requires otherwise:
 - [(1) "Board" means the State Landscape Contractors Board.]
 - [(2)] (1) "Landscape contractor" means any person who for compensation or with the intent to be compensated [arranges, undertakes, offers or contracts to undertake, or submits a bid to perform] performs or supervises activities requiring the art, ability, experience, knowledge, science and skill to:
 - (a) Plan and install lawns, shrubs, vines, trees and other decorative vegetation including the preparation of property on which the vegetation is to be installed, and the construction of ornamental water features and drainage and irrigation systems for decorative vegetation;
 - (b) Transplant lawns, shrubs, vines, trees or other decorative vegetation; or
 - [(b)] (c) Plan and install fences, decks, arbors, driveways, walkways and retaining walls.[; or]

- [(c) Do any part or any combination of any activity described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection.]
- (2) "Landscape maintenance business" means a business that offers or provides, for compensation or with the intent to be compensated, the services of a landscape maintenance contractor.
- (3) "Landscape maintenance contractor" means a person who for compensation or with the intent to be compensated performs or supervises activities for the upkeep, preservation or renewal of existing shrubs, trees or bedding areas or of pathways of loose material.
- [(3)] (4) "Landscaping business" means any business that offers or provides, for compensation or with the intent to be compensated, the services of a landscape contractor.
- [(4)] (5) "Licensee" means a person [or business who] that is licensed under ORS 671.510 to 671.710 as a landscape contractor, landscaping business, landscape maintenance contractor or landscape maintenance business.
- [(5)] (6) "Nursery stock" means nursery stock as defined by ORS 571.005 and as further defined by the **State Landscape Contractors** Board after public hearing.
- [(6)] (7) "Ornamental water features" means fountains, ponds, waterfalls, man-made streams and other decorative water-related constructions as identified by board rule.

SECTION 7. ORS 671.525 is amended to read:

- 671.525. (1) An applicant for a landscaping business license or landscape maintenance business license must qualify as an independent contractor, under ORS 670.600, to be licensed with the State Landscape Contractors Board.
 - (2) The board shall establish two classes of independent contractor registration:
 - (a) The nonexempt class is composed of the following entities:
- (A) Sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies with one or more employees; and
- (B) Partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies with more than two partners, corporate officers or members if any of the partners, officers or members are not part of the same family and related as parents, spouses, siblings, children, grandchildren, sons-in-law or daughters-in-law.
- (b) The exempt class is composed of all sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies that do not qualify as nonexempt. All partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies must have a federal tax identification number.
- (3) If a licensee who qualifies for registration under subsection (2)(b) of this section hires one or more employees, or falls into any of the categories set out in subsection (2)(a)(B) of this section, the licensee is subject to penalties under ORS 671.955 and must reapply to the board for registration in the correct class.
- (4) The decision of the board that a licensee is an independent contractor applies only when the licensee is performing [work of the nature described in ORS 671.520 and 671.530] landscaping or landscape maintenance work.

SECTION 8. ORS 671.530 is amended to read:

- 671.530. (1) A person may not operate as a landscape contractor in this state without a valid landscape contractor's license issued [pursuant to] under ORS 671.560.
- (2) A person may not represent in any manner that the person is a landscape contractor unless the person has a valid landscape contractor's license issued [pursuant to] **under** ORS 671.560. The prohibition in this subsection includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Using the title of landscape contractor, landscape gardener or landscaper or any other title using a form of the word "landscape" that indicates or tends to indicate that the person is a landscape contractor; and
- (b) Using any [title,] sign, card or device that indicates or tends to indicate that the person is a landscape contractor.
- (3) A person may not operate as a landscaping business in this state unless the person has a valid landscaping business license issued [pursuant to] under ORS 671.560.
- (4) A person may not advertise or represent in any manner that the person is a landscape business unless the person has a valid landscaping business license issued [pursuant to] under ORS 671.560. The prohibition in this subsection includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) Using the title of landscape business or landscaping business or any other title that indicates or tends to indicate that the person is a landscaping business; and
- (b) Using any [title,] sign, card or device that indicates or tends to indicate that the person is a landscaping business.
- [(5) A landscape maintenance business may use a form of the word "landscape" in the title of the business only if the title clearly indicates the maintenance nature of the business. For purposes of this subsection, the term "landscape gardening" does not indicate the maintenance nature of a landscape maintenance business.]
- [(6)] (5) A landscape contractor is authorized to perform landscaping work only while in the employ of a landscaping business licensed and bonded as required by ORS 671.510 to 671.710. If the landscape contractor is the sole proprietor, the contractor must also obtain a license as a landscaping business.
 - SECTION 9. ORS 671.540 is amended to read:

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- 671.540. [(1)] ORS 671.510 to 671.710 and 671.990 (2) do not apply to:
- [(a)] (1) Any federal or state agency or any political subdivision performing landscaping or landscape maintenance on public property.
- [(b)] (2) Any landscape architect registered [pursuant to] under ORS 671.310 to 671.459 and practicing as provided [therein] under ORS 671.310 to 671.459.
 - [(c)] (3) Landscaping work performed by a landscape maintenance business if:
- [(A)] (a) The work is performed for a customer that in a calendar year receives primarily landscape maintenance services from the business;
- [(B)] (b) The contract amount or actual value of all labor, materials or other items supplied for landscaping work [at a] on each job site does not exceed \$500 in a calendar year; and
- [(C)] (c) The landscaping work is of a casual, minor or inconsequential nature, as those terms are defined by the State Landscape Contractors Board by rule.
 - (4) Landscape maintenance work if:
- (a) The contract amount or actual value of all labor, materials or other items supplied for landscape maintenance work on each job site does not exceed \$500 in a calendar year; and
- (b) The landscape maintenance work is of a casual, minor or inconsequential nature, as those terms are defined by the board by rule.
- [(d)] (5) Installation of fences, decks, arbors, driveways, walkways or retaining walls when performed by a person or business licensed with the Construction Contractors Board.
- [(e)] (6) Grading of plots and areas of land performed in conjunction with new or remodeling 43 construction when performed by a person or business licensed with the Construction Contractors Board.

- [(f)] (7) Any owner of property who contracts for landscaping work to be performed by a person licensed under ORS 671.560 or for landscape maintenance work to be performed by a person licensed under sections 3 or 4 of this 2005 Act. This [paragraph] subsection does not apply to a person who, in pursuit of an independent business, performs or contracts for the performance of landscaping or landscape maintenance work with the intent of offering for sale before, upon or after completion of the landscaping or landscape maintenance work, the property upon which the [landscaping] work is performed.
- [(g)] (8) Any landscaping work **or landscape maintenance work** performed by a person on property that the person owns or in which the person has a legal interest. This [paragraph] **subsection** does not apply to a person who, in pursuit of an independent business, performs or contracts for the performance of landscaping **or landscape maintenance** work with the intent of offering for sale before, upon or after completion of the landscaping **or landscape maintenance** work, the property on which the [landscaping] work is performed.
- [(h)] (9) A general contractor licensed under ORS chapter 701 who performs landscaping work or landscape maintenance work if the total value [of the] for all landscaping work and landscape maintenance work performed by the contractor is less than \$2,500 per residential dwelling and the landscaping work or landscape maintenance work is performed on residential property for which the contractor is under contract for the construction of a new dwelling. The State Landscape Contractors Board shall revise the amount specified in this [paragraph] subsection every five years, beginning in 2003, based on changes in the Portland-Salem, OR-WA Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for All Items as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. This [paragraph] subsection does not apply to a general contractor performing irrigation work unless the work is performed pursuant to a permit issued by the local building official.
- [(i)] (10) A general contractor licensed under ORS chapter 701 who performs landscaping work or landscape maintenance work on residential property that is directly related to local building code requirements or occupancy ordinances including, but not limited to, landscaping work involving the placement of street trees. This [paragraph] subsection does not apply to a general contractor performing irrigation work unless the work is performed pursuant to a permit issued by the local building official.
- [(j)] (11) A person engaged in making conceptual plans or drawings for the selection, general placement or use of plants or other site features, unless the plans or drawings are for sites:
- [(A)] (a) That include natural drainage channels, streams, wetlands, marshes or other sensitive natural areas regulated by the local, state or federal government or that encroach on designated buffer zones for those areas; or
- [(B)] (b) Where slopes of 10 percent or greater comprise at least 25 percent of the total site area or directly contribute storm water to natural drainage channels, streams, wetlands, marshes or other sensitive natural areas regulated by the local, state or federal government.
- [(k)] (12) A person, other than a licensed landscape contractor, using the title "landscape designer" in connection with making conceptual plans or drawings for the selection, general placement or use of plants or other site features, provided the person clearly notes on all contracts for services, plans and drawings that the implementation of, or consultation about the implementation of, the plans or drawings may require the services of a professional authorized by law to perform the implementation or offer the consultation.
 - [(2) As used in this section, "Portland-Salem, OR-WA Consumer Price Index" means the

1 Portland-Salem, OR-WA Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for All Items as published 2 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.]

SECTION 10. ORS 671.550 is amended to read:

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671.550. (1) The State Landscape Contractors Board may inquire into and inspect:

- (a) Any services performed or materials furnished by a licensee under ORS 671.510 to 671.710.
- (b) The financial records of a person [who it] **the board** reasonably believes is operating in violation of ORS 671.530 **or section 3 of this 2005** Act.
- (c) The services performed or materials furnished by a person [who it] **the board** reasonably believes is operating in violation of ORS 671.530 **or section 3 of this 2005 Act**.
- (2) Except when used for legal action or to determine negligent or improper work under ORS 671.703, the information obtained by an inspection authorized by this section is confidential. However, the board shall furnish copies of any inspection to the licensee or other person that is subjected to an inspection.

SECTION 11. ORS 671.555 is amended to read:

671.555. (1) The State Landscape Contractors Board may investigate the activities of any person engaged in [the] a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business to determine compliance with ORS 671.510 to 671.710.

- (2) With the approval of the city or county, the board may conduct investigations with city or county inspectors, provided that the city or county is reimbursed by the board for the costs of [such] the investigations.
- (3) Any inspector authorized by the board to determine compliance with the provisions of ORS 671.510 to 671.710 is authorized to require any person who is engaged in any activity regulated by ORS 671.510 to 671.710 to demonstrate proof of compliance with the [registration] licensing requirements of ORS 671.510 to 671.710. If a person who is contracting directly with the owner of the property does not demonstrate proof of compliance with the [license] licensing requirements of ORS 671.510 to 671.710, the inspector shall give notice of noncompliance to the person. The notice of noncompliance shall be in writing, shall specifically state that the person is not in compliance with the [registration] licensing requirements of ORS 671.510 to 671.710 and shall provide that unless the person demonstrates proof of compliance within two days of the date of the notice, the inspector may by order stop all work then being done by the person. The notice of noncompliance shall be served upon the person and shall be served upon or delivered to the owner of each property upon which the person is then performing work under contract. If more than one person is the owner of [any such] a property, a copy of the notice need be given to only one of [such] those persons. If after receipt of the notice of noncompliance the person fails within the two-day period specified in the notice to demonstrate proof of compliance with the [registration] licensing requirements of ORS 671.510 to 671.710, the inspector is authorized to order the work stopped by notice in writing served on any persons engaged in the activity. Any person so notified shall stop [such] work that is the subject of the notice until proof of compliance is demonstrated. However, the inspector may not order the work stopped until at least two days after the copies of the notice of noncompliance have been served upon or delivered to the owners.
- (4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, the board may order work stopped immediately if the landscape contractor or landscape maintenance contractor working on a worksite has never [registered with] been licensed by the board or if the contractor cannot demonstrate that the contractor has [been registered] held a valid license at any time within the two years immediately preceding work on the worksite.

- (5) The board has the power to administer oaths, issue notices and subpoenas in the name of the board, compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence, hold hearings and perform [such] other acts [as are] reasonably necessary to carry out [its] duties of the board under ORS 671.510 to 671.710.
- (6) If any person fails to comply with a subpoena issued under subsection (5) of this section or refuses to testify on matters on which the person may be lawfully interrogated, the board shall compel obedience in the manner provided in ORS 183.440.

SECTION 12. ORS 671.565 is amended to read:

- 671.565. Each person applying for a landscaping business license shall pay to the State Landscape Contractors Board the fees required by ORS 671.570 and 671.650 and:
- (1) Employ at least one person with a landscape contractor's license to supervise the landscaping operation of the business and shall submit the names of all employees who are licensed **landscape** contractors.
 - (2) File with the board the surety bond required [pursuant to] under ORS 671.690.
- (3) Throughout the license period, have in effect public liability, personal injury and property damage insurance covering the work of that landscaping business [which] that is subject to ORS 671.510 to 671.710 for an amount not less than \$100,000. The landscaping business shall provide satisfactory evidence to the board at the time of application and renewal that the insurance required by this section has been procured and is in effect.
- (4) Indicate, as set forth in ORS 670.600, the basis under which the applicant qualifies as an independent contractor.
 - (5) Submit the names of all employees who are licensed landscape contractors.
 - SECTION 13. ORS 671.570 is amended to read:
- 671.570. Each person applying for a landscape contractor's license shall pay to the State Landscape Contractors Board the fee required by ORS 671.650 and:
- (1) Pass an examination, which shall be offered at least once each six months by the board to determine the fitness of the applicant for licensing and have:
 - (a) Within 10 years before the day the application for a license is made, at least:
 - (A) Twenty-four months of employment with a landscape contractor; or
- (B) Twelve months of employment with a landscape contractor and one full year of training in an area related to landscaping at an accredited school or college; or
 - (b) Proven to the satisfaction of the board by test and experience that the applicant is qualified.
 - (2) Be employed by a landscaping business if performing landscaping work.
 - (3) Pay a nonrefundable examination fee.
- (4) Submit the name of the employer if the person is currently performing landscaping work.

SECTION 14. ORS 671.575 is amended to read:

- 671.575. (1) A landscaping **business or landscape maintenance** business may not file a lien, file a claim with the State Landscape Contractors Board or bring or maintain in any court of this state a suit or action for compensation for the performance of any work or for the breach of any contract for work [which] **that** is subject to ORS 671.510 to 671.710 and 671.955, unless the [landscaping] business was:
- (a) Licensed **to perform the work** under ORS 671.510 to 671.710 and 671.955 at the time the [landscaping] business bid or entered into the contract for performance of the work; and
 - (b) Licensed continuously while performing the work for which compensation is sought.

- (2) If the court determines that the landscaping **business or landscape maintenance** business was not aware of the requirement that the [contractor be registered] **business be licensed**, a court may choose not to apply subsection (1) of this section if the court finds that to do so would result in a substantial injustice to the unlicensed [landscaping] business.
- (3) If a landscaping **business or landscape maintenance** business falsely swears to information provided [under ORS 671.560 or 671.565] in an application for licensure by the board or knowingly violates the provisions of ORS 656.029, 670.600, 671.560 or 671.565 or section 4 of this 2005 Act, the [landscaping] business may not file a lien, file a claim with the State Landscape Contractors Board or bring or maintain in any court of this state a suit or action for compensation for the performance of any work or for the breach of any contract for work [which] that is subject to ORS 671.510 to 671.710 and 671.955.

SECTION 15. ORS 671.580 is amended to read:

671.580. A landscape [contractor's] contractor license issued [pursuant to] under ORS 671.560 or a landscape maintenance contractor license issued under section 3 of this 2005 Act is a personal privilege and is not transferable.

SECTION 16. ORS 671.590 is amended to read:

671.590. The State Landscape Contractors Board may license without examination any person who is a landscape contractor or landscape maintenance contractor licensed, certified or registered under the laws of another state, territory of the United States, the District of Columbia or another country where the requirements on the date the applicant was licensed, certified or registered were substantially equal to the requirements for [licensing of landscape contractors] obtaining an equivalent license in this state on the date of application by the person.

SECTION 17. ORS 671.603 is amended to read:

671.603. (1) A landscape contractor, landscape maintenance contractor or a person operating as a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business shall notify the State Landscape Contractors Board of a change of address for the contractor or business that occurs while the contractor or business is licensed by the board or within one year after a license becomes inactive. The landscape contractor [or], landscape maintenance contractor or person operating as a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business shall ensure that the board receives notice of the change of address no later than the 10th day after the change of address occurs.

(2) Initial notice of a contested case or arbitration directed by the board to the last-known address of record for a landscape contractor [or], landscape maintenance contractor, landscaping business or landscape maintenance business is considered delivered to the contractor or business when deposited in the United States mail and sent registered, certified or post office receipt secured. Any other communication directed by the board to the last-known address of record for a landscape contractor [or], landscape maintenance contractor, landscaping business or landscape maintenance business is considered delivered to the contractor or business when deposited in the United States mail, regular mail.

SECTION 18. ORS 671.610 is amended to read:

671.610. (1) In addition to any civil penalty assessed under ORS 671.955, the State Landscape Contractors Board may suspend, revoke or refuse to issue or renew the license of any person that:

- (a) Has obtained or attempted to obtain a license under ORS 671.510 to 671.710 by fraud or material misrepresentation;
- (b) Has made a material misrepresentation about the quality of any material or service the person provides;

(c) Has performed defective work;

- (d) Has furnished defective materials;
- (e) Has made misleading statements when advertising services or materials;
- (f) Has violated a provision of ORS 671.510 to 671.710;
 - (g) Has had the bond or deposit required by ORS 671.690 terminated, canceled or reduced or withdrawn; or
 - (h) Has violated a voluntary compliance agreement entered into under ORS 646.605 to 646.652.
 - (2) The board may suspend the license of or refuse to license a person if the person, or the owner or holder of a direct or indirect interest in the person, is a business or the owner or holder of a direct or indirect interest in a business that:
 - (a) Owes any amount pursuant to a final order or arbitration award of the board;
 - (b) Owes any amount pursuant to a court order or civil penalty arising from landscaping, landscape maintenance or construction business activities in this or any other state of the United States;
 - (c) Owes any amount to a surety company that has paid money from the surety bond of a land-scaping business or landscape maintenance business; or
 - (d) Has had a license to operate as a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business revoked by [the landscape contractor licensing agency of] any state.
 - (3) The board shall adopt rules defining the ownership or holding of a direct or indirect interest for purposes of subsection (2) of this section.
 - (4) The board may hold the suspension or refusal of a license under subsection (2) of this section in abeyance if the person is adhering to a board-approved plan for restitution of the amount owed.
 - (5) An individual who has been a sole proprietor, partner, limited liability company member, limited liability partnership member or corporate officer of a landscaping **business or landscape maintenance** business the license of which has been suspended or revoked may be denied a license if the individual knowingly participated in the conduct that led to the suspension or revocation.
 - (6) A person whose license is revoked or not renewed [pursuant to] under this section is not eligible to apply for a license under ORS 671.510 to 671.710 until two years after the effective date of the revocation or of the nonrenewal.
 - (7) In addition to the remedies of license denial, suspension, revocation or refusal to renew a license, [when] if it appears to the board that a person has engaged in, or is engaging in, any act, practice or transaction that violates [the provisions of this chapter] ORS 671.510 to 671.710, the board may direct the Attorney General to apply to the court for an injunction restraining the person from violating [the provisions of this chapter] ORS 671.510 to 671.710.
 - (8)[(a)] The board may suspend, revoke or refuse to reissue a license to a [landscape contractor] landscaping business or landscape maintenance business if the board determines, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that the [contractor] business was working with another [landscape contractor or landscape contractors] landscaping business or landscape maintenance business on the same task and work site where one of the [contractors] landscaping or landscape maintenance businesses is registered exempt under ORS 671.525 (2)(b) and the total number of [landscape contractors] landscaping or landscape maintenance businesses working on the task exceeded:
 - [(A)] (a) Two sole proprietors;
 - [(B)] (b) One partnership;
- [(C)] (c) One corporation; or
- 45 [(D)] (d) One limited liability company.

- [(b)] (9) The board may assess a civil penalty as provided under ORS 671.955 (4) for a violation of [paragraph (a) of this subsection] subsection (8) of this section.
- 3 <u>SECTION 19.</u> ORS 671.613, as amended by section 315, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003, is 4 amended to read:
 - 671.613. (1) The failure of a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business to comply with [the provisions of this section and] ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870, 656.021, 657.665, 670.600, [671.520,] 671.525[,] and 671.530 [and 671.575] or to be in conformance with the provisions of ORS chapter 279, 279A, 279B, 279C, 316, 571, 656 or 657 is a basis for suspension [of the landscaping business license, revocation of the landscaping business license], revocation or refusal to issue or reissue a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business license, assessment of a civil penalty as set forth in ORS 671.955 or a combination of these sanctions.
 - (2) Any action against a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business under this section shall be conducted in conformance with the provisions of ORS 183.413 to 183.497.

SECTION 20. ORS 671.625 is amended to read:

- 671.625. (1) The State Landscape Contractors Board shall by rule adopt minimum standards for written contracts and billings of [the] landscaping businesses and landscape maintenance businesses. The standards shall set forth requirements for information that [must be contained in] contracts and billings must contain. The information required shall be any information the board determines is necessary to provide protection for consumers of the services and materials provided by landscaping businesses and landscape maintenance businesses.
- (2) Work by a landscaping **business or landscape maintenance** business subject to ORS 671.510 to 671.710 shall only be performed subject to a written contract. Any contract or billing for [such] work must conform to the standards adopted under subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) A contract that does not substantially comply with this section may not be enforced by a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business in any court or other proceedings within this state.

SECTION 21. ORS 671.650 is amended to read:

- 671.650. (1) The State Landscape Contractors Board shall establish fees, including but not limited to annual [landscape contractor's] **contractor** license fees and annual [landscaping] business license fees.
- (2) The license fee [for] that the board charges an out-of-state [landscaping] business operating in Oregon must be the same as [for] the license fee that the board charges an Oregon [landscaping] business.

SECTION 22. ORS 671.660 is amended to read:

- 671.660. (1) The fee for renewal of a license issued under ORS 671.510 to 671.710 shall be paid annually on or before the last day of the month of the anniversary of issuance.
- (2) A person who has been previously licensed under ORS 671.510 to 671.710 and whose license has expired shall not be issued another license except upon written application to the State Landscape Contractors Board with the required annual fee. The board may require the person to also pay a penalty fee.
- (3) If a license lapses for two years or more, the individual or business must reapply as for initial issuance of the license.
- [(4) When a business renews its license the business must submit the names of all employees who are licensed landscape contractors.]
 - [(5) When a person renews a landscape contractor's license, the person must submit the name of

1 the employer if the person is currently performing landscaping work.]

SECTION 23. ORS 671.690 is amended to read:

671.690. (1) An applicant for a license as a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business shall file with the State Landscape Contractors Board a surety bond with one or more corporate sureties authorized to do business in this state, or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by an insured institution, as defined in ORS 706.008. The amount of the bond or letter of credit shall be:

(a) \$3,000; or

- (b) \$10,000 for an applicant who constructs fences, decks, arbors, driveways, walkways or retaining walls not in conjunction with landscaping work.
- (2) The bond or letter of credit required under subsection (1) of this section shall be conditioned that the applicant pays:
 - (a) All taxes and contributions due to the State of Oregon;
 - (b) All persons furnishing labor or material, or renting or supplying equipment to the business;
- (c) All amounts that may be adjudged against the business by reason of negligent or improper work or breach of contract in performing any work subject to ORS 671.510 to 671.710; and
 - (d) All amounts from the bond or deposit the board orders paid under ORS 671.703.
- (3) In lieu of the surety bond or letter of credit required under subsection (1) of this section, the landscaping business **or landscape maintenance business** may file with the board, under the same terms and conditions as when a bond is filed, a deposit in cash or negotiable securities acceptable to the board.
- (4) The deposit, bond or letter of credit required by this section must be continuously on file with the board in the amount required by this section and is for the exclusive purpose of payment of final orders and arbitration awards of the board in accordance with ORS 671.703. Upon termination or cancellation of the bond, withdrawal of the deposit or reduction of the deposit, bond or letter of credit to less than the required amount, the licensee shall immediately:
 - (a) File a replacement deposit, bond or letter of credit; or
- (b) Surrender the license to the board and cease operating as a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business.
- (5) [The] A landscaping business or landscape maintenance business is responsible for all [landscaping and other] work performed by a contractor on behalf of the business.

SECTION 24. ORS 671.700 is amended to read:

671.700. A person having a claim against a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business shall give the State Landscape Contractors Board notice of the claim in writing 90 days before any action on the bond or deposit is commenced.

SECTION 25. ORS 671.703 is amended to read:

- 671.703. (1) If a person has a claim against a licensed landscaping business or landscape maintenance business for negligent or improper work performed by the [landscaping] business, or for alleged breach of contract by the [landscaping] business, the person may file the claim with the State Landscape Contractors Board.
- (2) Upon receipt of a claim that qualifies under subsection (1) of this section, the board shall initiate an investigation. Upon completion of the investigation, if the board determines that facts exist supporting an order for payment, the board may order the [landscaping] business to pay the claim. A party to the claim may request a hearing on the order issued by the board.
 - (3) Subject to subsection (6) of this section, if the resolution of a claim under this section re-

quires a hearing, the board may require that the hearing be conducted as a binding arbitration under rules adopted by the board under subsection (5) of this section.

- (4) The board may use arbitration to resolve a landscaping **or landscape maintenance** dispute between any parties who agree to follow the rules of the board, including parties to a dispute not described under subsection (1) of this section.
- (5) Except as provided in this subsection, rules adopted by the board to regulate arbitration under subsections (3) and (4) of this section must substantially conform with the provisions of ORS 36.600, 36.610 to 36.630, 36.635 (2), 36.640, 36.645 (2), 36.650 to 36.680, 36.685 (1) and 36.690 to 36.740. The rules may:
- (a) Require that a hearing under ORS 183.413 to 183.470 be conducted for issues for which a petition could be filed under ORS 36.615, 36.620, 36.625 and 36.640;
- (b) Limit orders and awards made by the arbitrator as necessary to comply with ORS 671.510 to 671.710;
- (c) Require that a request that an arbitrator modify or correct an award under ORS 36.690 be submitted in a form specified by the rule;
- (d) Require that a petition under ORS 36.705 (2) or 36.710 (1) be filed in a shorter period of time than provided by ORS 36.705 and 36.710; and
 - (e) Include any other provision necessary to conform the arbitration to ORS 671.510 to 671.710.
- (6) A party to a claim that is subject to a board order of binding arbitration under subsection (3) of this section may avoid the arbitration if the party requests to have the claim resolved through a contested case hearing or files a complaint in a court. A party making a request or filing a complaint under this subsection is subject to the following provisions:
- (a) If the party requests to have a claim resolved through a contested case hearing, the party must, within the time specified in paragraph (c) of this subsection, deliver the request in writing to the board and to all parties entitled by board rule to receive a copy of the request.
- (b) If the party files a complaint in a court, the party must, within the time specified in paragraph (c) of this subsection, deliver a copy of the complaint to the board and to all parties entitled by the board rule to receive a copy of the complaint. If the party filing the complaint is the claimant, the claimant must allege all elements of the claim in the complaint. If the complaint is filed by the [licensed landscaping] business against [whom] which a claim is alleged, the complaint may be a complaint for damages, a complaint for declaratory judgment or other complaint that allows the claimant to file a response alleging the elements of the claim. The claimant has the burden of proving the elements of the claim in any action described in this paragraph.
- (c) A party that is subject to paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection must deliver a request or complaint to the board as described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection no later than the 30th day after the board sends notice that an arbitration hearing has been scheduled. Failure to timely deliver a request or complaint under this paragraph constitutes consent to the binding arbitration.
- (d) If a party makes a timely request under paragraph (a) of this subsection for a contested case hearing and another party timely files a complaint in compliance with paragraph (b) of this subsection, the filing of the complaint supersedes the request for a contested case hearing.
- (e) A party may not withdraw a request made in compliance with paragraph (a) of this subsection unless all parties agree to the withdrawal.
- (f) The provisions of paragraph (b) of this subsection are in addition to any other requirements imposed by law regarding the filing of a complaint.

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- (7) An arbitration conducted under subsection (3) or (4) of this section must be held before an administrative law judge acting as arbitrator. The administrative law judge assigned to act as arbitrator of the case on behalf of the board must be from the Office of Administrative Hearings established under ORS 183.605. The assignment of an administrative law judge to act as arbitrator is subject to a request for a different arbitrator under ORS 183.645 or a rule adopted pursuant to ORS 183.645.
- (8) If a party to a claim under subsection (1) of this section requests a contested case hearing, the board shall schedule the hearing. If a party requests that the claim be resolved by a court, the board shall suspend further processing of the claim until the claim is resolved by an appropriate court.
- (9) If the claim is submitted for determination by a court, the board may require that the claimant provide status reports on the pending action. The board may dismiss or close a claim filed under subsection (1) of this section as established by rule of the board if the claimant fails to submit status reports on a pending action.
- (10) The board shall issue a final order or arbitration award in a form that indicates the maximum amount payable from the deposit, bond or letter of credit. If the landscaping business or landscape maintenance business does not pay the claim on or before the 30th day after receiving the board order or award, the board shall [order] issue an order for the claim paid out of the deposit, bond or letter of credit filed under ORS 671.690.
 - (11) The board may dismiss or close a claim as established by rule of the board if:
- (a) The claimant does not permit the [person] business against [whom] which the claim is filed to be present at any inspection made by the board; or
- (b) The board determines that the [person] business against [whom] which the claim is filed is capable of complying with recommendations made by the board relative to the claim, but the claimant does not permit the [person] business to comply with the recommendations. The board may dismiss or close a claim under this paragraph only if the [person] business was licensed at the time the work was first performed and is licensed at the time the board makes its recommendations.
- (12) The board may suspend processing a claim if the board determines that the nature or complexity of the claim is such that a court is the appropriate forum for the adjudication of the claim.

SECTION 26. ORS 671.707 is amended to read:

- 671.707. (1) If a final order of the State Landscape Contractors Board is not paid by the [registrant] licensee, the board shall notify the surety on the [registrant's] licensee's bond.
- (2) An order of the board that determines a claim under ORS 671.703 that becomes final by operation of law or on appeal and remains unpaid for 20 days after the order becomes final is an order in favor of the claimant against the [registrant] licensee and may be recorded with the county clerk in any county of this state.
- (3) Upon receipt, the clerk shall record the order in the County Clerk Lien Record. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, recording an order in the County Clerk Lien Record pursuant to this section has the effect provided for in ORS 205.125 and 205.126, and the order may be enforced as provided in ORS 205.125 and 205.126.

SECTION 27. ORS 671.710 is amended to read:

671.710. [(1) Determinations by the State Landscape Contractors Board or judgments against the surety bond or deposit of a landscape contractor shall be satisfied in the priority listed in paragraphs (a) to (d) of this subsection in any 90-day period. A 90-day period shall begin on the date the first claim

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is filed with the board. A subsequent 90-day period shall begin on the date the first claim is filed with the board after the close of each preceding 90-day period. Within a 90-day period:]

- (1) Determinations by the State Landscape Contractors Board or judgments against the surety bond, letter of credit or deposit of a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business for claims filed during a 90-day period shall be satisfied in the priority listed in subsections (2) to (4) of this section. The payment of a claim filed during a 90-day period has priority over any claim filed during a subsequent 90-day period. A 90-day period begins on the date the first claim is filed with the board. A subsequent 90-day period begins on the date the first claim is filed with the board after the close of the preceding 90-day period.
- [(a)] (2) Determinations and judgments as a result of claims [against a landscape contractor] filed within a 90-day period against a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business by owners of property upon which landscaping or landscape maintenance work was performed, or was contracted to [perform, shall] be performed, have payment priority to the full extent of the bond, letter of credit or deposit over all other claims filed within that 90-day period.
- [(b) If the total of all claims against a landscape contractor does not exhaust the bond or deposit, then amounts due as a result of all other claims filed within that 90-day period may be satisfied from the bond or deposit.]
- [(c) If the total of all claims against a landscape contractor exceeds the amount of the bond or deposit available for such claims, the bond or deposit shall be apportioned as the board determines, subject to the priorities established under this section.]
- [(d) If the total of all claims against a landscape contractor does not exceed the amount of the bond or deposit available for such claims, all amounts due as a result of claims filed within the 90-day period shall have priority over all claims filed after the 90-day period until the amount of the bond or deposit available for such claims is exhausted.]
- (3) If the total of all claims against a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business by owners of property under subsection (2) of this section does not exhaust the bond, letter of credit or deposit, amounts due as a result of all other claims filed within that 90-day period may be satisfied from the remainder of the bond, letter of credit or deposit.
- (4) If the total of all claims against a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business within a 90-day period exceeds the amount of the bond, letter of credit or deposit available for payment of those claims, payment from the bond, letter of credit or deposit shall be apportioned as the board determines, subject to the claim payment priorities established under this section.
- [(2)] (5) The bond, letter of credit or deposit [shall] may not be used to satisfy claims filed more than one year following the date the work was completed.

SECTION 28. ORS 671.955 is amended to read:

- 671.955. (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, a person who violates any provision of ORS 671.510 to 671.710 or a rule adopted [pursuant to] under subsection (5) of this section or ORS 670.310, 670.605 or 671.670 shall forfeit and pay to the State Landscape Contractors Board a civil penalty in an amount determined by the board of not more than \$2,000 for each offense. [Notwithstanding ORS 670.335, Except as the board may otherwise provide under ORS 182.462 (5), the board shall deposit moneys received as fees or civil penalties into the account created by the board pursuant to ORS 182.470.]
 - (2) The board shall impose civil penalties under this section as provided in ORS 183.745.
 - (3) The provisions of this section are in addition to and not in lieu of any other penalty or

1 sanction provided by law.

- (4) If a landscaping business or landscape maintenance business commits an act described under ORS 671.610 (8), the board shall impose penalties and sanctions [for violation of ORS 671.610 (8)] on both the [person to whom] business to which the contract is awarded and the [person who] business that awards the contract as follows:
 - (a) A civil penalty of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 for [the] a first offense;
 - (b) A civil penalty of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000 for [the] a second offense;
- 8 (c) Suspension of license **or refusal to reissue license** for six months for a third offense; 9 [and]
 - (d) Revocation of license for three years for a fourth offense[.]; and
 - (e) Permanent revocation of the landscaping business or landscape maintenance business license for a fifth offense.
 - (5) The board shall provide by rule a process and criteria that must be met for restoration of a license that has been revoked.
 - [(6) If at any time following restoration of a license revoked under subsection (4)(d) of this section, the person is again found to have violated ORS 671.610 (8), the board shall revoke the person's license permanently.]
 - SECTION 29. Except as the State Landscape Contractors Board may otherwise provide under ORS 182.462 (5), the board shall deposit moneys received as fees or civil penalties into the account created by the board pursuant to ORS 182.470.

SECTION 30. ORS 671.990 is amended to read:

- 671.990. (1) Violation of any of the provisions of ORS 671.010 to 671.220 is subject to the provisions of ORS 671.220.
 - (2) Violation of ORS 671.530 or section 2 of this 2005 Act is a Class A misdemeanor.
 - **SECTION 31.** ORS 701.005 is amended to read:
 - 701.005. As used in this chapter:
 - (1) "Board" means the Construction Contractors Board.
- (2) "Contractor" means a person who, for compensation or with the intent to sell, arranges or undertakes or offers to undertake or submits a bid to construct, alter, repair, add to, subtract from, improve, inspect, move, wreck or demolish, for another, any building, highway, road, railroad, excavation or other structure, project, development or improvement attached to real estate or to do any part thereof. "Contractor" includes general contractors, residential-only contractors and specialty contractors as defined in this section.
- (3) "General contractor" means a contractor whose business operations require the use of more than two unrelated building trades or crafts that the contractor supervises or performs in whole or part, whenever the sum of all contracts on any single property, including materials and labor, exceeds an amount established by rule by the board. "General contractor" does not include specialty contractors or limited contractors, as described in ORS 701.085.
- (4) "Home inspector" means a person who, for a fee, inspects and provides written reports on the overall physical condition of a residential structure and the appurtenances thereto. "Home inspector" does not include persons certified under ORS chapter 455 to inspect new, repaired or altered structures for compliance with the state building code.
- (5) "Inspector" means a contractor registered with the board who inspects or otherwise provides services to a property owner or other contractor but does not substantively add to or subtract from a structure. "Inspector" includes but is not limited to a home inspector certified or licensed under

ORS 701.350, a lead-based paint inspector licensed under ORS 701.515 and a cross connection and backflow prevention device inspector certified under ORS 448.279. "Inspector" does not include city or county inspectors acting under ORS 701.225 or an inspector as defined in ORS 455.715.

- (6) "Large commercial structure" means a structure that is not a residential structure or small commercial structure.
- (7) "Licensed developer" means a contractor who owns property or an interest in property and arranges for construction work, if the contractor:
- (a) Engages in the business of arranging for construction work and performing other activities associated with the improvement of real property, with the intent to sell the property;
- (b) Acts in association with one or more licensed general contractors and the general contractor or combination of general contractors have sole responsibility for overseeing all phases of construction activity on the property; and
 - (c) Does not perform any construction work on the property.
- (8) "Residential-only contractor" means a general contractor or specialty contractor who performs work exclusively in connection with residential structures and small commercial structures, and the appurtenances thereto. "Residential-only contractor" includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) A person who purchases or owns property and constructs or for compensation arranges for the construction of one or more residential structures or small commercial structures with the intent of selling the structures;
- (b) A school district, as defined in ORS 332.002, that permits students to construct a residential structure or small commercial structure as an educational experience to learn building techniques and sells the completed structure;
- (c) A community college district, as defined in ORS 341.005, that permits students to construct a residential structure or small commercial structure as an educational experience to learn building techniques and sells the completed structure; or
- (d) Any person except a landscape contractor, landscape maintenance contractor, nurseryman, gardener or person engaged in the commercial harvest of forest products who is engaged as an independent contractor to remove trees, prune trees, remove tree limbs or stumps or to engage in tree or limb guying.
- (9) "Residential structure" means a residence, including a site-built home, modular home constructed off-site, floating home as defined in ORS 830.700, condominium unit, manufactured dwelling or duplex, or a multiunit residential building consisting of four units or less that is not part of a multistructure complex of buildings.
- (10) "Small commercial structure" means a nonresidential structure that has a ground area of 4,000 square feet or less, including exterior walls, and a height of not more than 20 feet from the top surface of the lowest flooring to the highest interior overhead finish of the structure.
- (11) "Specialty contractor" means a contractor who performs work on a structure, project, development or improvement and whose operations as such do not fall within the definition of "general contractor." "Specialty contractor" includes a person who performs work regulated under ORS chapter 446.

SECTION 32. Section 2 of this 2005 Act becomes operative July 1, 2006.