

2015 LEGISLATION
SB580 – Signed into Law by the Governor on July 6, 2015
To be Effective January 1, 2016

Background on the bill: After the 2013 legislative session, Senator Thomsen convened a work group to explore issues with the agency and its laws and rules. Stakeholders involved in the work group were: Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA), Southern Oregon Landscape Association (SOLA), Oregon water purveyors, the Oregon League of Cities, Oregon Landscape Association, the CCB, several self representing licensees and the agency's staff and representatives. After nearly two years of meetings, the group came to a consensus and SB 580 was created.

What the bill accomplishes:

- Clarifies that LCB licensees can install artificial turf (except for large sports fields).
- Allows consumers to file claims with the LCB if the business is licensed with both the LCB and CCB.
- Allows LCB licensed businesses to subcontract work related to landscaping jobs (e.g. plumbing and electrical work).
- Clarifies that LCB licensed businesses can plan irrigation systems without installing them.
- Increases the insurance requirement from \$100,000 to \$500,000.
- Adds a new \$20,000 bond for landscaping jobs of \$50,000 or more.
- Gives licensees 30 days rather than 10 to report address changes to the agency.
- Allows landscaping work under \$2,000 to be performed without a written contract.
- Modifies the agency's continuing education program.
- Adds bond coverage for LCB licensed businesses who do tree work (CCB laws allow LCB licensed businesses to perform the work but there is no bond coverage to protect consumers for the work performed)
- Gives the LCB discretion on whether to assess penalties for law violations.
- Gives LCB staff authority to issue stop work orders.
- Requires the LCB exam to be translated into Spanish (this was added during the session, not by the work group).

Next Steps: The LCB will be reviewing this law for any rule amendments and publishing those changes prior to January 1, 2016. Please continue to check the LCB's website, Facebook, and newsletters for updated information.