

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5446

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As of January 27, 2006

**Title:** An act relating to licensing of soil scientists.

**Brief Description:** Licensing soil scientists.

**Sponsors:** Senators Kohl-Welles, Parlette, Franklin, Swecker, Brown and Schoesler.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce, Research & Development: 2/10/05; 1/30/06.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

**Staff:** John Dziedzic (786-7784)

**Background:** Soil science deals with the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the unconsolidated mineral and/or organic material on the surface of the earth. Soil science includes hydrological, erosion, and flood assessments, and other evaluations of the natural capacity of the soil to treat or dispose of water or waste products. Soil science is distinguished from soil engineering, which relates to evaluating soils as a support base for roads and buildings.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** Practicing or offering to practice soil science for others without a license issued under this bill is unlawful. An application, examination, and licensing system similar to that which currently applies to geologists is created within the Department of Licensing (DOL). A five-member advisory committee, appointed by the Director of DOL, is created.

Before July 1, 2008, a person who is certified as a professional soil scientist or soil classifier by the Soil Science Society of America may be licensed without examination. After July 1, 2008, an applicant must have graduated from a course of study acceptable to the geologist licensing board, and demonstrate satisfactory character and experience.

All fees and fines received under this bill are deposited to the geologists' account. Licensing and disciplinary procedures are subject to the Uniform Regulation of Business and Professions Act. DOL may adopt rules under the Administrative Procedures Act.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** Certified Crop Advisor is defined, the list of professions exempt from licensing is modified, and deadline dates are adjusted.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available for Original Bill.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2006, except Section 4, requiring soil scientists to be licensed, which is effective July 1, 2007.