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 DIGEST

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SB 280 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Abraham

Present law provides for the regulation and licensure of contractors.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law retains present law and defines "environmental well or hole" as a specialized boring that includes but is not limited to observation, monitor, piezometer, recovery, horizontal boring, cathodic protection, or geotechnical boreholes for the purposes of environmental assessment, sampling, or analyzation. Proposed law also defines "water well drilling" to mean drilling for the purposes of extracting ground water which includes but is not limited to the drilling, construction, maintenance, repair, abandoning, plugging, or sealing water wells for potable and nonpotable water.

Proposed law requires that the appropriate license classification be held by any person who advertises, solicits, undertakes, attempts, offers, or submits a price, bid, quote, or estimate to construct, supervise, direct, oversee, or perform any construction, modification, repair, or maintenance of any portion of a water well, environmental well or hole.

Proposed law requires a water well contractor or environmental well or hole contractor to pass the appropriate examination, be registered with the State Licensing Board for Contractors, be registered and in good standing with the Dept. of Conservation and Energy, and meet all other licensure requirements of a contractor.

Proposed law requires a water well contractor or environmental well or hole contractors to complete five hours of continuing education annually from a provider approved by the board and maintain well registration with the Dept. of Conservation and Energy.

Effective July 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 37:2150.1(25) and (26) and 2156.5)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Provides for licensure requirements for well contractors.
2. Provides for continuing education for well contractors. Requires a well contractor to complete five hours of continuing education annually and to maintain well registration with the Dept. of Conservation and Energy.
3. Requires well contractors maintain well registration with the Dept. of Conservation and Energy.
4. Makes technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Replaces the term "environmental drilling" with "environmental well or hole" and provides a definition for the term.
2. Replaces the term "water drilling" with "water well drilling" and clarifies the definition of "water well drilling".

3. Clarifies that both a water well contractor and an environmental or hole contractor shall pass exams, register with the state board of contractors, and be in good standing with the Dept. of Conservation and Energy.
4. Clarifies that both a water well contractor and an environmental or hole contractor shall complete five hours of continuing education.
5. Makes technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the reengrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Change the effective date of the bill to July 1, 2026.
3. Amend the definition of "environmental well or hole".