



NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 856
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OREGON BOARD OF MARITIME PILOTS

FILING CAPTION: Amending length requirements for Grade "B" and "A" licensees.

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 04/21/2025 3:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

A public rulemaking hearing may be requested in writing by 10 or more people, or by a group with 10 or more members, within 21 days following the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Oregon Bulletin or 28 days from the date the Notice was sent to people on the agency mailing list, whichever is later. If sufficient hearing requests are received, the notice of the date and time of the rulemaking hearing must be published in the Oregon Bulletin at least 14 days before the hearing.

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NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

Amendment is needed to provide additional opportunities for licensees.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

Board Meeting 3/20/2025 - minutes available from the Administrator and recording available on the Board's website.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

This amendment will not affect racial equity.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

There is no anticipated fiscal or economic impact.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

There is no cost to comply with this rule.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

The Board has no authority over entities other than their licensees.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Board counsel reviewed amendment request, and all Rule Committee members are Board members and agreed a rules committee review was not necessary.

AMEND: 856-015-0035

RULE SUMMARY: Amending rule to allow licensees of Grade levels "B" and "A" to pilot vessels with slightly longer lengths.

CHANGES TO RULE:

856-015-0035

Pilot Licensing Requirements - Columbia & Willamette River Pilotage Ground - Grade "B", Grade "A" and Unlimited Licenses ¶

(1) A Grade "B" License issued by the Board authorizes the holder to pilot vessels on the Columbia & Willamette River pilotage ground up to 700 feet L.O.A., except a Grade "B" pilot shall not pilot tankers or vessels with a draft of 38 feet or greater.¶

(2) To qualify for a Grade "B" license, an applicant must meet the following requirements:¶

(a) Hold an active Grade "C" license and complete at least 180 days service on the Columbia & Willamette River pilotage ground while holding a Grade "C" license.¶

(b) Complete at least 30 trips, of which at least 20 are transits, on the pilotage ground piloting ships of between 300 and 600 feet L.O.A.¶

(c) Complete at least 25 transits on ships 600 feet L.O.A. or greater under the supervision of a minimum of ten (10) different pilots, at least six (6) of whom have held unlimited state licenses for at least five (5) years.¶

(d) Complete at least five (5) trips in either direction between Astoria and either Longview or Kalama on ships 600 feet L.O.A. or greater under the supervision of an unlimited state-licensed pilot.¶

(e) Make at least six (6) trips under the supervision of unlimited state-licensed pilots while on the bridge of ships not less than 500 feet L.O.A., with at least three (3) trips in each of the following directions:¶

(A) From the Willamette River, turning east (upstream) into the Columbia River; and¶

(B) From the Columbia River upstream of the mouth of the Willamette River, turning south into the Willamette River.¶

(f) Complete at least two (2) trips from dock to dock or anchor to dock while on ships not less than 600 feet L.O.A. while under the supervision of an unlimited state-licensed pilot, with each such trip requiring a 180 degree turn before docking.¶

(g) Present recommendations from the training course monitor and from at least ten (10) pilots holding unlimited state licenses who participated in the training, certifying that the applicant has sufficient knowledge and shiphandling skills to pilot vessels from and including 600 feet L.O.A. up to 700 feet L.O.A.¶

(h) The requirements specified in subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of this section must have been met during the 180 days preceding application for a Grade "B" license. At the request of the Training Course Monitor and for good cause, the training period may be extended by the Board up to 365 days.¶

(i) When the foregoing requirements are met, the Board shall issue a license to the applicant authorizing the applicant to pilot vessels which are less than 700 feet L.O.A., except that the applicant shall not pilot tankers or vessels with a draft of 38 feet or greater, on the pilotage ground.¶

(3) A Grade "A" pilot license issued by the Board authorizes the holder to pilot vessels on the Columbia & Willamette River pilotage ground up to 800 feet L.O.A., except a Grade "A" pilot shall not pilot tankers or vessels with a draft of 40 feet or greater.¶

(4) To qualify for a Grade "A" license, an applicant must meet the following requirements:¶

(a) Hold an active Grade "B" license and complete at least 270 days service on the Columbia & Willamette River pilotage ground while holding a Grade "B" license.¶

(b) Complete at least 40 transits piloting ships of between 300 and 700 feet L.O.A. as a state-licensed pilot.¶

(c) Complete at least 20 transits on ships 700 feet L.O.A. or greater while under the supervision of at least ten (10) unlimited state-licensed pilots.¶

(d) Train at least five (5) additional days as directed by the training course monitor, with assignments chosen at the discretion of the training course monitor.¶

(e) Present recommendations from the training course monitor and from at least ten (10) unlimited pilots who participated in the training, certifying that the applicant has sufficient knowledge and shiphandling skills to pilot vessels from and including 700 feet L.O.A. up to 800 feet L.O.A. on the pilotage ground.¶

(f) The requirements specified in subsections (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of this section must have been met during the 270 days preceding application for a Grade "A" license.¶

(5) An Unlimited license authorizes the holder to pilot any vessels on the Columbia & Willamette River pilotage ground.¶

(6) To qualify for an Unlimited license an applicant must meet the following requirements:¶

- (a) Hold an active Grade "A" license in good standing and complete at least 180 days service on the pilotage ground while holding a Grade "A" license.¶
- (b) Complete at least 30 transits on ships of between 300 and 800 feet L.O.A. during the 180 days preceding application for an Unlimited license.¶
- (c) Train at least ten (10) additional days as directed by the training course monitor, with assignments chosen at the discretion of the training course monitor.¶
- (d) While holding a Grade "B" or Grade "A" license, complete at least ten (10) transits on ships greater than 800 feet L.O.A., or if directed by the training course monitor, on ships greater than 700 feet L.O.A. with drafts of 40 feet or greater. The transits completed under this section must be under the supervision of at least ten (10) different unlimited pilots, five (5) of whom have not less than five (5) years' experience as unlimited state-licensed pilots.¶
- (e) Present recommendations from the training course monitor and from at least ten (10) unlimited pilots who participated in training, certifying that the applicant has sufficient knowledge and shiphandling skills to pilot vessels 800 feet L.O.A. or greater on the pilotage ground.¶
- (f) While holding a Grade "B" or Grade "A" license, complete at least twelve (12) transits on tankers (including at least nine (9) transits on loaded tankers) while under the supervision of at least six (6) different state-licensed pilots with not less than five (5) years' experience as unlimited state-licensed pilots.¶
- (g) Present recommendations from the training course monitor and from at least six (6) pilots who participated in training on tankers, certifying that the applicant has sufficient knowledge and shiphandling skills to pilot tankers on the pilotage ground and understands the risks and hazards peculiar to piloting tankers on the pilotage ground.¶
- (h) While holding a Grade "B" or a Grade "A" license, complete at least twelve (12) transits on ships with drafts of 40 feet or greater while under the supervision of at least six (6) different state-licensed pilots with not less than five (5) years' experience as unlimited state-licensed pilots.¶
- (i) While holding a Grade "B" or Grade "A" license, make at least four (4) trips under the supervision of unlimited state-licensed pilots while on the bridge of a ship 700 feet L.O.A. or greater, or if directed by the training course monitor, on the bridge of a ship 600 feet L.O.A. or greater with a draft of 40 feet or more, with such trips in each of the following directions:¶
 - (A) At least 3 trips from the Willamette River, turning east (upstream) into the Columbia River; and¶
 - (B) At least 1 trip from the Columbia River upstream of the mouth of the Willamette River, turning south (upstream) into the Willamette River.¶
- (j) While holding a Grade "B" or Grade "A" license, complete two (2) trips from dock to dock or from an anchorage to a dock under the supervision of unlimited state-licensed pilots while on ships 700 feet L.O.A. or greater, with each trip including a 180 degree turn before docking.¶
- (k) Present recommendations from the training course monitor and from at least six (6) unlimited pilots who participated in training on vessels with drafts 40 feet or greater, certifying that the applicant has sufficient knowledge and shiphandling skills to pilot vessels with drafts 40 feet or greater.¶
- (l) Provide proof of completion of a United States Coast Guard approved course in automatic radar plotting aids (ARPA).¶
- (m) Submit a license fee as specified by 856-015-0045, which may be pro-rated, in order to synchronize the annual license renewal with the renewal of an Unlimited license.¶
- (n) When the foregoing requirements are met, the Board shall issue an Unlimited license to the applicant authorizing the applicant to pilot vessels of any length and draft, including tankers, on the pilotage ground.¶

(7) Each grade of license will be valid for one (1) year, except that, upon request of the training course monitor, the duration of a Grade "C", "B" or "A" license may be extended by the Board for an additional period equal to the time that a trainee is absent from the pilotage ground due to medical disability. No license except an Unlimited license may be renewed.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 776, ORS 670

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 776.115, ORS 670.310