

MEMORANDUM

To: Laurie Lage, Legal Counsel

From: Brad Pracheil, Division Administrator

RE: LB 299, *Provide a comparison of whether and how other states regulate the occupation.*

Below is the Department's response to the following request: *Provide a comparison of whether and how other states regulate the occupation.*

The Department compared Onsite Wastewater Treatment (OWT) requirements in the State to other State's in EPA Region 7 (Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa). Nebraska requires both installers and pumpers to pass an exam and pay a fee for initial certification. The certification expires on December 31 of each odd-numbered year and to renew a certification the individual must pay a fee and obtain 12 hours of continuing education (CE).

Missouri is similar to Nebraska in requiring installers to pass an exam and pay a fee to become certified. Missouri also has a (CE) requirement for individuals to renew their certification, and the certification lasts for three years. Missouri requires fewer CEs each subsequent renewal (e.g. the longer an individual has been certified the fewer CEs are required).

<https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/onsite/professionals.php>

Both Kansas and Iowa primarily rely on individual county-level staff to regulate onsite wastewater. In Iowa, local health boards regulate systems with less than 4 houses or less than 15 people, while the State regulates larger systems. In Iowa there is no requirement for installers to be certified, but pumpers must be licensed by the State. Instead of relying on certified professionals in Iowa the local sanitarian inspects all new systems prior to completing the construction.

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Private-Septic-Systems>

Just over half of Kansas counties require installers to be licensed, but initial certification and renewal requirements vary by county. <http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/lepp/>