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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### AB 1288 (Addis) - Registered environmental health specialists

**Version:** April 10, 2025

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** July 14, 2025

**Policy Vote:** HEALTH 11 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Agnes Lee

**Bill Summary:** AB 1288 would make changes to the certification process for registered environmental health specialists.

**Fiscal Impact:** The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) estimates annual General Fund costs of \$200,000 starting in 2026-27 for state administration and additional annual General Fund costs of \$91,000 in 2026-27 through 2028-29 to promulgate regulations.

**Background:** Current law provides for the certification of registered environmental health specialists (REHS) by the CDPH and establishes education, training, and examination requirements for this certification. The scope of practice in environmental health, for these purposes, includes the organization, management, education, enforcement, consultation, and emergency response for the purpose of prevention of environmental health hazards and the promotion and protection of the public health and the environment in the following areas: food protection; housing; institutional environmental health; land use; community noise control; recreational swimming areas and waters; electromagnetic radiation control; solid, liquid, and hazardous materials management; underground storage tank control; onsite septic systems; vector control; drinking water quality; water sanitation; emergency preparedness; and milk and dairy sanitation. Current law requires the appointment of an Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee to advise and to make recommendations to CDPH with respect to the administration and enforcement of the registration of environmental health specialists.

**Proposed Law:** Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Add to the scope of practice of an REHS to include body art and medical waste.
- Revise the educational course requirements to become an REHS, as specified.
- Revise the required program elements in an approved environmental health training program, as specified.
- Extend the length of time that an environmental health specialist trainee may be employed under the supervision of an REHS, from three years to five years.
- Revise the requirements for reexaminations for applicants who fail to pass the REHS examination, as specified.

- Make changes to requirements related to the Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee.

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