

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued****Action:** Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means**Vote:** 3 - 1 - 1**Yeas:** Bonamici, Monroe, Shields**Nays:** George**Exc.:** Boquist**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 2/23, 3/21**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Experiences of refugees upon arriving in Oregon
- Census data and demographic trends for immigration
- Fiscal impact of measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon currently has four advocacy commissions that serve as liaisons between minority communities and government entities. The four commissions are: the Commission on Black Affairs (established in 1980); the Commission for Women (established in 1964, became an independent agency in 1983); the Commission on Asian Affairs (established in 1995); and the Commission on Hispanic Affairs (established in 1983). Administrative support for the commissions is provided by the Oregon Advocacy Commission Office (OACO).

Senate Bill 655 creates a Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, consisting of eleven members, to work for “implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal and political equality for immigrants and refugees in this state.” Members of the Commission would be eligible for compensation and expenses. In addition to its other duties, the Commission is to report biennially to the Governor on the needs of immigrants and refugees, and to specify the programs, projects and activities that the Commission will undertake regarding those needs. The measure also specifies that a member of the Commission is to be appointed to the Environmental Justice Task Force and the Oregon Council of Health Care Interpreters.