

SB 856 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

Action Date: 04/04/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Hass, Riley

Nays: 2 - Girod, Olsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/19, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Oregon Office of New Americans (Office) in Governor's office to serve as central resource for welcoming and orienting new immigrants. Requires Governor to appoint no fewer than three individuals to carry out responsibilities. Requires Office to identify and provide assistance and information to Legislative Assembly on benefit cliffs; train employers to help businesses be more inclusive for immigrants and refugees; train immigrants in interviewing, cover letter, and resume development and other job skills; provide information on naturalization; hold career summits; provide information on alternative pathways for recredentialing; provide culturally relevant sector-specific job training; and provide career counseling in projected job markets and specific positions. Requires Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) to coordinate businesses, institutions of higher education, licensing agencies, and resettlement agencies to streamline recredentialing and entry into job market for immigrants and refugees. Requires OACO to appoint at least one individual to coordinate specified activities. Appropriates unstated amount of General Fund to support Oregon Office of New Americans.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of developing statewide services to support immigrants and refugees
- Examples of similar state programs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires Office to identify and provide assistance information to Legislative Assembly on benefit cliffs; train employers to help businesses be more inclusive for immigrants and refugees; train immigrants in interviewing, cover letter, and resume development and other job skills; provide information on naturalization; hold career summits; provide information on alternative pathways for recredentialing; provide culturally relevant sector-specific job training; and provide career counseling in projected job markets and specific positions. Requires Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) to coordinate businesses, institutions of higher education, licensing agencies, and resettlement agencies to streamline recredentialing and entry into job market for immigrants and refugees. Requires OACO to appoint at least one individual to coordinate specified activities.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Migration Policy Institute, immigrants accounted for 13.5 percent of the total population of the United States in 2016. Immigrants and their U.S.-born children are now 27 percent of the overall U.S. population. Immigrants made up 17 percent of the civilian labor force in 2016. In Oregon, immigrants make up roughly 10 percent of the state's total population.

Senate Bill 856-A establishes the Oregon Office of New Americans to serve as the central resource for welcoming and orienting new immigrants coming to Oregon. The Governor must appoint at least three individuals to connect immigrants to their communities, essential services, and education and career opportunities. The measure also

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requires the Oregon Advocacy Commission Office to coordinate businesses, institutions of higher education, licensing agencies, and resettlement agencies to streamline recredentialing and entry into the job market for immigrants and refugees.