

SB 778 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Action Date: 04/08/21

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

Vote: 4-2-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Gelser, Manning Jr, Prozanski

Nays: 2 - Heard, Linthicum

Exc: 1 - Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to operate a statewide immigration and refugee integration strategy. Requires the director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement be chosen through an open hiring process. Specifies minimum staff level and duties. Specifies duties of office and allows it to adopt rules. Appropriates \$1,376,037 to the office from the General Fund. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Integrated statewide immigrant refugee services strategy
- Data collection
- Agency collaboration
- Percentage of Oregon residents who are/were immigrants or refugees and their contributions to Oregon's economy
- Oregon's history of exclusionary policies
- Cultural and geographic responsiveness

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires the director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement be chosen through an open hiring process. Specifies minimum staff level (three staff persons) and duties. Appropriates \$1,376,037 to the office from the General Fund.

BACKGROUND:

According to the American Immigration Council, one out of every 10 Oregonians is foreign-born, and one of every nine Oregon residents is a native-born American who has at least one immigrant parent. Over two-fifths of Oregon's fishers, farmers, and foresters are immigrants, as well as more than one-fifth of all production employees. Twenty-nine percent of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while 31 percent had less than a high school diploma. While Oregon has a variety of organizations and services for its immigrant communities, there is currently no statewide strategy in place. Senate Bill 778 A establishes the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to operate a statewide immigration and refugee integration strategy, which would include partnering with existing immigrant and refugee programs, collecting data on immigrant and refugee populations in Oregon and their needs, and being involved in the legislative process at the state and federal levels.