

HB 3230 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/13/21

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

Vote: 9-1-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Bynum, Dexter, Helm, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Noble, Power, Wilde

Nays: 1 - Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Universal Representation Fund in the State Treasury. Requires an established Oregon nonprofit to serve as the fiscal agent to award grants to organizations to provide services related to immigration matters through a universal representation program. Directs the fiscal agent to create an advisory committee for the program. Describes the types of services the fund is allocated for, including attorney services and navigators. Requires individuals receiving services through the program to be financially eligible. Directs the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court to transfer funds to the Oregon State Bar's Legal Services Program. Requires fiscal agent to report to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to legal services by August 31 of each year. Appropriates \$10.5 million from the General Fund to DAS and \$4.5 million to the Judicial Department. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregonians who live in constant fear of deportation; impact on families and health
- Ensuring that case outcomes are determined by the merits of the case
- No right to counsel in deportation cases
- Equity Corps of Oregon Pilot

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Respondents appearing in Immigration Court do not have a right to counsel. Unrepresented respondents are almost five-and-a-half times more likely to lose their deportation case than those who have an attorney. Equity Corps of Oregon (based in Portland) was founded in 2014 with the goal of providing representation to qualifying Oregonians in deportation proceedings by providing access to a community navigator, pro bono legal services and other services such as medical or mental health resources.

House Bill 3230 A would create a statewide universal representation program to provide for specified immigration services.