

HB 3176 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services (DHS), in consultation with Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA), to establish the Welcome and Reception Program that would provide immigrants and refugees with access to short-term and long-term support services. Appropriates unspecified General Fund moneys to DHS for support services. Requires DHS to contract with up to 12 organizations to provide services and with Oregon State Bar to provide regulatory oversight of organizations providing immigration-related legal services. Requires participating organizations to biennially report to DHS on outcomes. Directs OIRA to convene stakeholders to coordinate and implement policy recommendations that would benefit immigrant and refugee communities. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA) was established in 2021 by Senate Bill 778. Senate Bill 1550 (2022) transferred OIRA from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Human Services (DHS). OIRA is charged with advocating for the interests of immigrants and refugees, collecting and monitoring data on immigrant and refugee populations in Oregon, and advocating for and analyzing policy proposals that affect immigrants and refugees.

Before OIRA was established, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2508 (codified as ORS 411.139), which directed the Department of Human Services to award grants to certain organizations to provide various navigation and assistance services for refugees.

House Bill 3176 directs DHS, in consultation with OIRA, to establish the Welcome and Reception Program that would coordinate organizations to provide support services to immigrants and refugees.