

SB 849 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

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Meeting Dates: 2/28, 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires staff of professional licensing boards who support internationally educated persons through licensure, certification, or other authorization process receive culturally responsive training approved by Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement. Requires professional licensing boards to develop and publish on website guidance on pathways to licensure, certification, or other authorization process for internationally educated persons. Requires professional licensing boards to waive English proficiency examination for specified internationally educated persons. Prohibits Oregon Medical Board (Board) from imposing time limitation on completion of United States Medical Licensing Examination. Permits Board to issue limited license to practice medicine to specified persons under supervision of licensed physician. Establishes the Internationally Educated Workforce Reentry Grant Program (Grant Program) in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to award grants to specified entities who provide career guidance and support services to internationally educated residents of Oregon who are seeking to enter the Oregon workforce in an eligible profession. Defines terms. Requires HECC to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 1, 2026, and specifies contents of report. Appropriates \$20,000,000 General Fund to HECC for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 for purposes of operating the Grant Program. Specifies operative date of January 1, 2024 for certain provisions. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provides one-time funding for grant program
- Other states with similar physician or nursing programs
- Professions eligible to benefit from grant program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Makes technical amendments. Modifies eligibility requirements to obtain limited license to practice medicine under supervision of licensed physician. Modifies process for determining grant award amounts within the Internationally Educated Workforce Reentry Grant Program (Grant Program). Changes definition of "eligible profession" for purposes of Grant Program.

BACKGROUND:

One 2020 report showed that one in ten Oregon residents is an immigrant, with more than two in five immigrants in Oregon having become naturalized U.S. citizens. This population was estimated to comprise approximately 13 percent of the workforce in Oregon in 2018, spread across a number of industries, including health care and manufacturing.

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) works to equitably improve postsecondary educational attainment levels and improve Oregon's economic competitiveness and quality of life. HECC is also responsible for implementation of Future Ready Oregon. Future Ready Oregon encompasses investments in workforce training aimed at advancing a more equitable workforce system.

Senate Bill 849 requires professional licensing boards to provide culturally responsive training to specified staff members, publish guidance on their websites on pathways to professional licensure, certification, or authorization for internationally educated persons and waives requirements for English proficiency examination for specified internationally educated persons. It also prohibits the Oregon Medical Board (Board) from imposing time

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limitations on completion of the United States Medical Licensing Examination and allows the Board to issue a limited license to practice medicine to specified persons under the supervision of a licensed physician. Finally, SB 849 establishes the Internationally Educated Workforce Reentry Grant Program within HECC.

PRELIMINARY