

SB 612 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/28, 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Indigenous Language Justice Fund. Requires nonprofit organization registered in Oregon that addresses and executes worker relief as primary purpose to serve as fiscal agent to receive disbursement of moneys for purposes related to supporting Indigenous languages interpretation in Oregon. Requires fiscal agent to annually report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to language interpretation services and to submit first report no later than August 31, 2024. Appropriates funds from General Fund to Indigenous Language Justice Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces the measure. Appropriates from General Fund \$2,000,000 to Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for distribution to Pueblo Unido PDX for facilitating creation of language proficiency evaluations for interpreters of Indigenous languages spoken in present-day Mexico and Central and South America. Appropriates from General Fund \$500,000 to DAS for distribution to Oregon Worker Relief for payments to individuals who provide interpretation services for languages that are national languages of small countries from which local populations have emigrated, spoken by small ethnic minority groups or languages spoken by Indigenous groups. Declares emergency; effective July 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

[Language Access Services](#) within the Legislative Policy and Research Office serves the Oregon Legislative Assembly to meet its language interpretation needs, and [Language Access Services and Resources](#) does the same for the Oregon Judicial Branch. Within the executive branch, [Language and Disability Access](#) within the Oregon Health Authority provides interpretation services for health care, while the [Translation Advisory Council](#) under the Secretary of State identified some of the most commonly spoken languages in the state for the purpose of translating certain elections material.

Senate Bill 612 creates the Indigenous Language Justice Fund for the purpose of supporting Indigenous languages interpretation in Oregon.