

SB 612 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 04/20/23

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

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Hansell, Knopp, Lieber, Manning Jr, Steiner

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/28, 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The lack of mechanisms in Oregon to provide for Indigenous language interpretation
- Oregon would be at the forefront of addressing this issue
- Concern about the starting cost of the fund
- Concern about excluding other Indigenous languages

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

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 has identified some of the most commonly spoken languages in the state for the purpose of translating certain elections material.

Senate Bill 612 A appropriates moneys from the General Fund for Pueblo Unido PDX to create language proficiency evaluations for interpreters of Indigenous languages spoken in present-day Mexico and Central and South America, and for Oregon Worker Relief for payments for certain 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.