

Senate Bill 935

Sponsored by Senator MANNING JR; Senators JAMA, WOODS, Representative BYNUM (at the request of Neil Simon)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Prohibits landlords from denying application for tenancy based on certain rental or financial screening or admissions criteria if applicant is refugee from Ukraine.

Waives written test or actual demonstration requirements for issuance of driver license for refugee from Ukraine who holds valid driver license issued by Ukraine that expires on or after January 1, 2022.

Requires Department of Transportation to waive fees relating to issuance or provision of up to two replacements of driver license issued to refugee from Ukraine.

Requires Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to develop and provide informational material to each field office of Department of Transportation where applications for driver licenses or vehicle registrations are accepted. Directs that informational material identify types of driver licenses issued by Ukraine that may be used to obtain Oregon driver license and explain eligibility for waivers to fees and certain testing requirements and be provided in English, Ukrainian and Russian languages.

Sunsets January 2, 2028.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to refugees from Ukraine; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas the Russian Federation's unprovoked war on Ukraine, carried out since February 2022,
4 has displaced millions of Ukrainian people; and

5 Whereas close to eight million Ukrainians have been internally displaced and more than six
6 million Ukrainians have been externally displaced in what is Europe's largest humanitarian crisis
7 since World War II; and

8 Whereas the United States of America is extending protections to as many as 180,000 Ukrainian
9 refugees; and

10 Whereas Oregon is hosting 4,500 Ukrainian refugees as measured by the Uniting for Ukraine
11 program as of February 3, 2023; and

12 Whereas the Slavic community, composed of countries formerly part of the Soviet Union, is the
13 largest refugee community in Oregon and Oregon was a leading state to welcome refugees from
14 those countries between 1990 and 2000; and

15 Whereas Oregon has the power to assist Ukrainian refugees by easing barriers to resettlement,
16 including those barriers related to housing, mobility and state-issued identification; now, therefore,

17 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

18 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 90.**

19 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "refugee from Ukraine" means an individual from**
20 **the country of Ukraine who is displaced as a result of the armed conflict in Ukraine and**
21 **granted refugee status for admission to the United States by United States Citizenship and**
22 **Immigration Services.**

23 **(2) Notwithstanding ORS 90.295 and 90.304, a landlord may not apply screening or admis-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 sions criteria to deny an application for a tenancy based on rental or financial information
2 as described in ORS 90.304 (2)(a) to (d) if the applicant is a refugee from Ukraine.

3 **SECTION 3.** Section 4 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of the Oregon Vehicle
4 Code.

5 **SECTION 4.** (1) As used in this section, “refugee from Ukraine” means an individual from
6 the country of Ukraine who is displaced as a result of the armed conflict in Ukraine and
7 granted refugee status for admission to the United States by United States Citizenship and
8 Immigration Services.

9 (2) Notwithstanding ORS 807.072, the Department of Transportation shall waive any
10 written test or actual demonstration required under ORS 807.070 (2) or (3) if the applicant
11 is a refugee from Ukraine and holds a valid driver license issued by the country of Ukraine
12 that expires on or after January 1, 2022.

13 (3) Notwithstanding ORS 807.370, the department shall provide for the waiver of all fees
14 relating to the issuance or provision of up to two replacements of a driver license when the
15 department issues a driver license to a refugee from Ukraine.

16 (4) The department shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

17 **SECTION 5.** (1) Within 30 days following the effective date of this section, the Office of
18 Immigrant and Refugee Advancement shall develop and provide informational material, as
19 described in subsection (2) of this section, to each field office of the Department of Trans-
20 portation where applications for driver licenses or vehicle registrations are accepted.

21 (2) The informational material developed under this section must:

22 (a) Identify the types of driver licenses issued by the country of Ukraine that may be
23 used under section 4 of this 2023 Act;

24 (b) Explain the waivers provided under section 4 of this 2023 Act; and

25 (c) Be provided, at a minimum, in the English, Ukrainian and Russian languages.

26 **SECTION 6.** Sections 1 to 5 of this 2023 Act are repealed on January 2, 2028.

27 **SECTION 7.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
28 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
29 on its passage.

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