

# HB 2586

## In-State Tuition for Asylum Seekers

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HB 2586 would include asylum seekers among non-citizens eligible for in-state university tuition.

### Background

ORS 352.287 details which non-citizens are eligible for in-state tuition at Oregon's public universities. These include non-citizens who graduate from an Oregon high school as well as Compact of Free Association (COFA) islanders, refugees, and special visa holders who are resident in Oregon and have not previously established residency in another state.

### Problem

Asylum seekers are not included within the definition of "refugee" while their applications for asylum are being considered. Until their applications are approved, they are considered international students for tuition purposes. Unfortunately, an application for asylum can take years to be approved. Since few asylum seekers can afford the tuition charged to conventional international students, they find themselves frozen out of higher education as their applications make their way through the federal process. Involuntarily delaying a college education for years can drastically hamper career success and economic productivity.

### Solution

Include asylum seekers alongside refugees as being eligible for in-state tuition.

### FAQ

**Q: Does the bill define "asylum seeker"?**

A: According to the bill, "Asylum seeker" means an individual admitted to the United States under 8 U.S.C. 1158.



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