

HB 2586 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/28, 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure adds asylum seekers to the types of immigrant students eligible for resident (in-state) tuition at Oregon public universities and Oregon Health and Science University. It declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 36; Nays, 18

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Period for establishing residency
- Verification of asylum application
- Differences in residency periods for citizens and certain non-citizens

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Since the passage of [House Bill 2787 \(2013\)](#), Oregon has granted resident (in-state) tuition to certain immigrant students who attended Oregon high schools. In 2021, [Senate Bill 553 \(2021\)](#) extended resident tuition to refugees and special immigrant visa holders, including individuals who have been granted asylum. Refugees and special immigrant visa holders are only eligible for resident tuition if they have not established residency in any state other than Oregon.

[Asylum](#) refers to a status granted to those seeking protection from persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. United States law requires those seeking asylum to file an application for asylum within one year of arriving in the United States (8 U.S.C. 1158).

Two states, Utah and Rhode Island, passed laws within the last five years that explicitly provided in-state tuition for asylum seekers, typically as part of a larger bill on resident tuition for immigrant students ([Utah House Bill 102 \(2023\)](#) and [Rhode Island House Bill 5238 \(2021\)](#)). Similar bills have been introduced in three additional states: [Virginia House Bill 2388 \(2019\)](#), [Connecticut House Bill 5742 \(2023\)](#), and [Maine House Bill 591 \(2023\)](#).