

HB 2976 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Action Date: 03/25/25

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

Vote: 6-0-3-0

Yeas: 6 - Hartman, McIntire, Nosse, Ruiz, Scharf, Walters

Exc: 3 - Elmer, Javadi, Nguyen H

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/18, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for distribution to specified nonprofit organizations to support Indigenous language interpretation. The measure declares an emergency and is effective July 1, 2025.

Detailed Summary:

Appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to DAS for distribution to Pueblo Unido PDX for the following purposes:

- facilitating the creation of language proficiency evaluation for interpreters of Indigenous languages spoken in Mexico, Central America, and South America.
- recruiting, training, retaining, and coordinating interpreters for individuals with these language needs.

Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Intended uses of provided funding.
- Interpretation services available in various settings.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment removes the appropriation to Oregon Worker Relief.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, an estimated 15 percent of the population five years and older speak a language other than English at home and an estimated 5.5 percent of the population five years and older report speaking English less than "very well" ([Legislative Policy and Research Office Language Access Services](#)). In 2023, the State of Oregon approved \$2 million to Pueblo Unido PDX to support the development of language proficiency evaluation mechanisms for Indigenous languages ([2023-25 Budget Highlights](#)).