

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 856

Ordered by the Senate April 9
Including Senate Amendments dated April 9

Sponsored by Senator DEMBROW, Representative PILUSO; Senator MANNING JR, Representative HERNANDEZ

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.

Establishes Oregon Office of New Americans in Governor's office. Specifies duties.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to services for immigrants in Oregon.

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

SECTION 1. The Oregon Office of New Americans is established in the office of the Governor to serve as a central resource for welcoming and orienting immigrants coming to Oregon and to coordinate government and nonprofit services available to new immigrants. The Governor shall appoint no fewer than three individuals to carry out the responsibilities of the Oregon Office of New Americans in performing the following functions:

(1) Connecting immigrants from diverse communities;

(2) Providing assistance to immigrants in accessing social services, legal assistance, health care and local and federal government services;

(3) Identifying and providing assistance around the extension of benefits cliffs and reporting annually to an appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly on proposed policy improvements regarding benefits cliffs and other ways to build success among immigrants;

(4) Maintaining shared community events calendars that are updated and translated into the languages of each community;

(5) Being a resource to immigrants regarding:

(a) Educational opportunities;

(b) Employment;

(c) Legal assistance;

(d) Advocacy organizations;

(e) Training opportunities;

(f) Tutoring;

(g) Workshops and clinics;

(h) English as a second language classes;

(i) Oregon History Day programs; and

(j) Recredentialing guidance;

(6) Providing data, analysis and information to government agencies, social service

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 agencies and the public to better understand and meet the needs of immigrant communities
2 and to demonstrate the diversity of the population in this state;

3 (7) Compiling a database on:

4 (a) Migration and immigration numbers and patterns;

5 (b) Immigrants' countries of origin;

6 (c) Immigrants' professional skills and degrees, including the names of universities con-
7 ferring degrees;

8 (d) Gaps in services provided to immigrants;

9 (e) Immigrant community needs; and

10 (f) Concerns of immigrant communities;

11 (8) Compiling data regarding services available to immigrants, including community out-
12 reach activities;

13 (9) Mentoring and training employers to help businesses be more inclusive workplaces for
14 immigrants and refugees;

15 (10) Training immigrants and refugees in interviewing, cover letter and resume develop-
16 ment and other job skills;

17 (11) Providing information on naturalization;

18 (12) Holding career summits;

19 (13) Providing information on alternate pathways for recredentialing while working in a
20 career field;

21 (14) Providing culturally relevant sector-specific training; and

22 (15) Providing career counseling regarding projected job markets in specific positions.

23 **SECTION 2.** Section 3 of this 2019 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 185.005 to
24 185.025.

25 **SECTION 3.** The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office shall coordinate businesses, in-
26 stitutions of higher education, licensing agencies and resettlement agencies to plan joint ef-
27 forts to streamline recredentialing and entry into the job market for immigrants and
28 refugees. The office shall appoint at least one person to perform the following functions:

29 (1) Serve as a coordinated hub for information and in-person and online help navigating
30 the recredentialing process, including national credential evaluations, English proficiency
31 examinations and English language test alternatives, licensing requirements and processes,
32 national examinations, internships or required experience and continuing education;

33 (2) Provide grants and funding mechanisms for recredentialing; and

34 (3) Provide analysis on measures of success in facilitating recredentialing.

35 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
36 ated to the office of the Governor, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General
37 Fund, the amount of \$_____, which may be expended for implementing and administering
38 the Oregon Office of New Americans established by section 1 of this 2019 Act.

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