

Senate Bill 655

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, CONSUMER AND SMALL BUSINESS PROTECTION

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**.

Creates Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to represent immigrant and refugee interests in state.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs; creating new provisions; and amending
3 ORS 182.538, 185.005 and 409.619.

4 Whereas nearly 1 in 10 Oregonians was not born in the United States; and

5 Whereas immigrants and refugees comprise 12 percent of the state's workforce; and

6 Whereas no state entity is dedicated to analyzing the impact of policy decisions on Oregon's
7 foreign-born population, and no state entity specifically advocates for immigrant and refugee affairs;
8 now, therefore,

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) **The Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs is created to work**
11 **for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal and political equality for**
12 **immigrants and refugees in this state and to maintain a continuing assessment of the issues**
13 **and needs confronting immigrants and refugees in this state.**

14 (2)(a) **The commission has 11 members. Nine of the 11 members shall be appointed by the**
15 **Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate under ORS 171.562 and 171.565. The Presi-**
16 **dent of the Senate shall appoint one Senator as a member of the commission, and the**
17 **Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one Representative as a member of**
18 **the commission.**

19 (b) **Appointments to the commission shall be made to ensure representation of immi-**
20 **grants and refugees in Oregon, with an attempt to provide varied geographic and ethnic**
21 **representation.**

22 (c) **All of the members of the commission must be residents of this state.**

23 (3) **The term of office of each member of the commission is three years. Appointments**
24 **to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall be made by the authority who made the original**
25 **appointment.**

26 (4) **The commission shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson for a term of one year**
27 **and shall determine the duties of the officers.**

28 (5) **A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the trans-**
29 **action of business.**

30 (6)(a) **Members of the commission who are not legislators shall be paid compensation and**
31 **expenses as provided in ORS 292.495 from funds appropriated to the Oregon Advocacy Com-**

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 **missions Office.**

2 (b) **Members of the commission who are legislators shall be paid compensation and ex-**
 3 **penditure reimbursement as provided in ORS 171.072, payable from funds appropriated to the**
 4 **Legislative Assembly.**

5 **SECTION 2. The Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs shall:**

6 (1) **Identify and examine the needs of immigrants and refugees in this state.**

7 (2) **Advance an agenda of immigrant and refugee integration.**

8 (3) **Compile information relating to services available to immigrants and refugees in this**
 9 **state, including but not limited to education and training programs, work programs, dispute**
 10 **resolution programs, trade opportunities, housing programs, health programs, mental health**
 11 **programs including alcohol and drug services, and welfare programs from local, state and**
 12 **federal sources and through private agencies.**

13 (4) **Develop and sponsor programs in cooperation with immigrant and refugee groups and**
 14 **organizations to inform immigrants and refugees in this state of services available to them.**

15 (5) **Assess all programs of state agencies operating for the benefit of immigrants and**
 16 **refugees in this state and make recommendations to the appropriate agencies for the im-**
 17 **provement of those programs.**

18 (6) **Serve as a liaison to the diverse immigrant and refugee communities of this state.**

19 (7) **Implement any other projects identified by the commission as advancing the purpose**
 20 **of the commission, as described in section 1 of this 2011 Act.**

21 (8) **Submit to the Governor at the beginning of each biennium a report that describes the**
 22 **needs of immigrants and refugees and that specifies the programs, projects and activities**
 23 **that the commission will undertake regarding those needs.**

24 **SECTION 3. (1) Not later than March 1, 2013, the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee**
 25 **Affairs shall submit a report to the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly.**

26 (2) **The report required by this section shall:**

27 (a) **Review the status of immigrant and refugee policies in this state;**

28 (b) **Analyze gaps or overlaps in coverage of services to immigrants and refugees; and**

29 (c) **Propose any legislative changes needed to help promote the goals of the commission,**
 30 **as described in section 1 of this 2011 Act.**

31 **SECTION 4. ORS 182.538 is amended to read:**

32 182.538. (1) **There is established the Environmental Justice Task Force consisting of 12 members**
 33 **appointed by the Governor. The members shall be persons who are well-informed on the principles**
 34 **of environmental justice and who, to the greatest extent practicable, represent minority communi-**
 35 **ties, low-income communities, environmental interests, industry groups and geographically diverse**
 36 **areas of the state. Of the 12 members, the Governor shall appoint one member of the task force from**
 37 **each of the following commissions:**

38 (a) **The Commission on Asian Affairs;**

39 (b) **The Commission on Black Affairs;**

40 (c) **The Commission on Hispanic Affairs; [and]**

41 (d) **The Commission on Indian Services[.]; and**

42 (e) **The Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.**

43 (2) **The task force shall submit an annual report to the Governor setting forth its view of the**
 44 **progress of natural resource agencies toward achieving the goals established pursuant to ORS**
 45 **182.542 and identifying any other environmental issues that the task force determines need atten-**

1 tion.

2 (3) The term of office of each member is four years, but a member serves at the pleasure of the
 3 Governor. Before the expiration of the term of a member, the Governor shall appoint a successor
 4 whose term begins on January 1 of the following year. A member may be reappointed. If there is a
 5 vacancy for any cause, the Governor shall make an appointment to become immediately effective for
 6 the unexpired term.

7 (4) A member of the task force who is not a member of the Legislative Assembly is entitled to
 8 compensation and expenses in the manner and amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for
 9 compensation and expenses incurred in performing functions of the task force shall be paid out of
 10 funds appropriated to the Governor for that purpose.

11 (5) The task force shall elect one of its members as a chairperson and another as vice chair-
 12 person, for the terms and with the duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions
 13 of such offices as the task force determines.

14 (6) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of
 15 business.

16 (7) The task force shall meet at least once every three months at times and places specified by
 17 the chairperson. The task force also shall meet at other times and places specified by the call of the
 18 chairperson or of a majority of the members of the task force.

19 (8) The Governor shall provide the task force with the necessary clerical and administrative
 20 staff support.

21 (9) Natural resource agencies are directed to assist the task force in the performance of its
 22 duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish such information
 23 and advice as the members of the task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

24 (10) A member of the task force who is a member of the Legislative Assembly may serve in an
 25 advisory capacity only.

26 **SECTION 5.** ORS 185.005 is amended to read:

27 185.005. The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office is established to provide administrative sup-
 28 port to:

- 29 (1) The Commission on Hispanic Affairs;
- 30 (2) The Commission on Black Affairs;
- 31 (3) The Commission for Women; *[and]*
- 32 (4) The Commission on Asian Affairs[.]; **and**
- 33 **(5) The Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.**

34 **SECTION 6.** ORS 409.619 is amended to read:

35 409.619. (1) The Oregon Council on Health Care Interpreters is created in the Oregon Health
 36 Authority. The council shall consist of [25] **26** members appointed as follows:

37 (a) The Governor shall appoint two members from each of the following groups:

38 (A) Consumers of medical services who are persons with limited English proficiency and who
 39 use health care interpreters;

40 (B) Educators who either teach interpreters or persons in related educational fields, or who
 41 train recent immigrants and persons with limited English proficiency;

42 (C) Persons with expertise and experience in administration or policymaking related to the de-
 43 velopment and operation of policies, programs or services related to interpreters, and who have fa-
 44 miliarity with the rulings of the federal Office for Civil Rights concerning interpreter services for
 45 various institutions;

1 (D) Health care providers, consisting of one physician and one registered nurse, who utilize in-
 2 terpreter services regularly in their practice;

3 (E) Representatives of safety net clinics that predominantly serve persons with limited English
 4 proficiency; and

5 (F) Representatives of hospitals, health systems and health plans predominantly serving persons
 6 with limited English proficiency.

7 (b) The Governor shall appoint one representative from each of the following agencies and or-
 8 ganizations after consideration of nominations by the executive authority of each:

9 (A) The Commission on Asian Affairs;

10 (B) The Commission on Black Affairs;

11 (C) The Commission on Hispanic Affairs;

12 (D) The Commission on Indian Services;

13 **(E) The Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs;**

14 [~~E~~] (F) The International Refugee Center of Oregon;

15 [~~F~~] (G) The Oregon Judicial Department's Certified Court Interpreter program;

16 [~~G~~] (H) The Commission for Women; and

17 [~~H~~] (I) The Institute for Health Professionals of Portland Community College.

18 (c) The Director of the Oregon Health Authority shall appoint three members including:

19 (A) One member with responsibility for administering mental health programs;

20 (B) One member with responsibility for administering medical assistance programs; and

21 (C) One member with responsibility for administering public health programs.

22 (d) The Director of Human Services shall appoint:

23 (A) One member with responsibility for administering developmental disabilities programs; and

24 (B) One member with responsibility for administering programs for seniors and persons with
 25 disabilities.

26 (e) The membership of the council shall be appointed so as to be representative of the racial,
 27 ethnic, cultural, social and economic diversity of the people of this state.

28 (2) The term of a member shall be three years. A member may be reappointed.

29 (3) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to
 30 become immediately effective for the unexpired term. The appointing authority may appoint a re-
 31 placement for any member of the council who misses more than two consecutive meetings of the
 32 council. The newly appointed member shall represent the same group as the vacating member.

33 (4) The council shall select one member as chairperson and one member as vice chairperson, for
 34 such terms and with duties and powers as the council determines necessary for the performance of
 35 the functions of such offices.

36 (5) The council may establish such advisory and technical committees as it considers necessary
 37 to aid and advise the council in the performance of its functions. The committees may be continuing
 38 or temporary committees. The council shall determine the representation, membership, terms and
 39 organization of the committees and shall appoint committee members.

40 (6) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
 41 business.

42 (7) Members of the council are not entitled to compensation, but at the discretion of the Direc-
 43 tor of the Oregon Health Authority may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other
 44 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties, subject to ORS 292.495.

45 (8) The council may accept contributions of funds and assistance from the United States Gov-

1 ernment or its agencies or from any other source, public or private, for purposes consistent with the
2 purposes of the council.

3 (9) The Oregon Health Authority shall provide the council with such services and employees as
4 the council requires to carry out its duties.

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