

HB 2508 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services to award grants to Refugee Resettlement Agencies for specified services. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to that end. Defines “eligible agency” and “refugee.” Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Refugee Case Services Project (RCSP) is a public/private partnership between the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Refugee Resettlement Agencies (RRAs). The RCSP assists refugees in the Portland metropolitan area for up to eight months after they arrive in the United States, since most refugees in Oregon initially resettle in that area. If a refugee resettles outside of the Portland metropolitan area, they may seek assistance from programs administered by their local DHS office (including cash assistance and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)), while referrals are made to locally contracted entities for employment services and to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for public health coverage.