

**SB 855 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Josh Nasbe, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 6/3

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs professional licensing boards that regulate an occupational or professional service to study manner in which persons who are immigrants and refugees become licensed, and to develop and implement methods to reduce barriers to licensure for applicants who may be immigrants or refugees. Becomes operative July 1, 2020. Requires licensing boards to report by November 30, 2019, to Legislative Assembly on progress in meeting requirements. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Current regulations require construction contractors, landscape contractors, athletic trainers, cosmetologists, nurse assistants, and many others to obtain an occupational license in order to engage in that profession. According to the Migration Policy Institute, Oregon was home to 55,000 immigrants with at least a bachelor's degree from 2009 to 2013. Roughly a quarter of those individuals were unemployed or working in a low-skilled job, resulting in \$272.5 million in lost annual earnings and \$27.7 million in forgone annual state and local tax payments.

Senate Bill 855-A requires state entities that administer and enforce occupational licensing requirements to study how immigrants and refugees become licensed, develop and implement methods to reduce barriers to licensure for immigrants or refugees, and report to the Legislative Assembly on their progress by November 30, 2019.