

SB 854 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Business and General Government

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Action Date: 04/09/19
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 3-2-0-0
Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Hass, Riley
Nays: 2 - Girod, Olsen
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 4/4, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs professional licensing board, unless otherwise required by federal or state law, to accept federally issued identification number in lieu of applicant's Social Security number for issuance or renewal of a licensure, certification, or other authorization to provide the occupational or professional service. Becomes operative January 1, 2020. Takes effect 91st day after adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Personal and economic benefits of helping skilled immigrants and refugees obtain professional licensure
- Challenges of verifying identity using federal tax identification number and potential for fraud
- Potential impact of measure on national certification requirements
- Federal requirement to provide Social Security number when applying for Commercial Driver License

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires professional licensing board to accept only a person's Social Security number when required by applicable federal and state statute.

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 low-skilled job, resulting in \$272.5 million in lost annual earnings and \$27.7 million in forgone annual state and local tax payments.

Social Security numbers are used to report a person's wages to the government and determine eligibility for Social Security benefits. Many organizations also use the Social Security number as a unique identifier for unrelated purposes. Social Security numbers are assigned at birth for citizens; noncitizens who provide specified documentation are also able to obtain a Social Security number. A noncitizen who is unable to obtain a Social Security number can obtain a federally issued identification number, including an individual taxpayer identification number.

Senate Bill 854-A requires a licensing board or agency, where allowed by federal and state law, to accept a federally issued identification number in lieu of the applicant's Social Security number.