

**SB 855 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee On Business and General Government**

**Carrier:** Sen. Dembrow

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**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:** Fiscal impact issued  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 4/4, 4/9

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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. Requires licensing boards to report by November 30, 2019, to Legislative Assembly on progress in meeting requirements. Becomes operative July 1, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Obstacles to entering licensed professions for highly skilled immigrants and refugees
- Social and economic costs of not utilizing skills and training of immigrants and refugees
- Results of current program to help immigrant and refugees with medical training to become credentialed nurses
- Relative merits of creating paths to occupational licensure for immigrants and refugees

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Removes requirement for professional licensing boards that regulate an occupational or professional service to develop pathways to licensure, certification, or other authorization for persons who are noncitizens. Requires professional licensing boards 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.

**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.

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.