

**SB 935 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs**

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**Prepared By:** Beverly Schoonover, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/21, 3/23

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Resolves to ease barriers to resettlement for individuals from the country of Ukraine who are displaced due to armed conflict and are granted refugee status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Limits landlords from denying rental agreements for Ukraine refugees based on lack of references and documented rental history. Requires the Department of Transportation to waive written and driving tests, and license fees for Ukraine refugees if they hold a valid Ukrainian driver’s license. Directs the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to develop and provide multilingual informational materials about license and fee waiver provisions. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Questions about prior legislation or policy on other refugee populations
- Questions about what accommodations are available for refugees through the U.S. Department of State

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Specifies waiving written tests, driving tests, and license fees for individuals applying for a Class C license only. Allows individuals to use Form I-94, Form I-766 or any other documents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or Department of Human Services to document Ukrainian refugee status. Allows the Department of Transportation (ODOT) to waive driver license tests and fees, even if the Department has already issued the qualifying individual an identification card. Allows individuals to use Form I-94, Form I-766 or any other documents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or Department of Human Services to document Ukrainian refugee status for rental applications or screenings. Appropriates \$50,000 from the General Fund beginning July 1, 2023, to ODOT for costs associated with Class C driver license fee waivers. Driver license provisions become operative 90 days following the effect date of the Act.

-2 Removes the proposed driver’s license written test waiver.

**BACKGROUND:**

In February 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized a special military operation to invade the country of Ukraine. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, since the invasion began six million Ukrainians have lost their homes and are internally displaced, while eight million Ukrainians have fled the country. According to Uniting for Ukraine, a private refugee sponsorship program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Oregon is currently hosting approximately 4,500 Ukrainian refugees.

Senate Bill 935 removes barriers for Ukraine refugees in Oregon, including limiting landlords from denying rental agreements based on lack of references and inability to verify information regarding rental history, and waiving written tests, driving tests, and license fees for Ukraine refugees that hold a valid Ukrainian driver’s license.