

SB 935 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 03/30/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 3-2-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Manning Jr, President Wagner, Woods

Nays: 2 - Linthicum, Thatcher

Exc: 1 - Gorsek

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines "refugee from Ukraine" as an individual from the country of Ukraine who is displaced due to armed conflict and is granted refugee status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Prohibits a landlord from denying rental applications for Ukraine refugees based on lack of references and documented rental history. Requires the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to waive certain Class C 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. Appropriates \$50,000 from the General Fund beginning July 1, 2023, to ODOT to implement driver license provisions. Specifies that driver license provisions become operative 90 days following the measure's effective date. Repeals measure on January 2, 2028. 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:

Removes the proposed driver's license written test waiver. Waives specified 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 Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to waive driver license tests and fees, even if ODOT 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 provisions associated with Class C driver license fee waivers. Specifies that driver license provisions become operative 90 days following the measure's effective date.

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.

SB 935 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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