

HB 2586 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure adds asylum seekers to the types of immigrant students eligible for resident, or in-state, tuition at Oregon public universities.

FISCAL: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lack of data on currently eligible students
- Unknown number of asylum seekers in Oregon
- Legal status of asylum seekers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment changes the definition of asylum seeker to individuals "with a pending application for asylum." It also adds asylum seekers to the types of immigrant students who are eligible for resident tuition at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). The amendment adds an emergency clause and makes the bill effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Since the passage of [House Bill 2787 \(2013\)](#), Oregon has granted resident or in-state tuition to certain immigrant students who attended Oregon high schools. In 2021, [Senate Bill 553 \(2021\)](#) extended resident tuition to refugees and special immigrant visa holders, including individuals who have been granted asylum. Refugees and special immigrant visa holders are only eligible for resident tuition if they have not established residency in any state besides Oregon.

[Asylum](#) refers to a status granted to those seeking protection from persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. United States law requires those seeking asylum to file an application for asylum within one year of arriving in the United States ([8 U.S.C. 1158](#)).

Two states, Utah and Rhode Island, passed laws within the last five years that explicitly provided in-state tuition for asylum seekers, typically as part of a larger bill on resident tuition for immigrant students ([Utah House Bill 102 \(2023\)](#) and [Rhode Island House Bill 5238 \(2021\)](#)). Similar bills have been introduced in three additional states: [Virginia House Bill 2388 \(2019\)](#), [Connecticut House Bill 5742 \(2023\)](#), and [Maine House Bill 591 \(2023\)](#).