

## HB 2976 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

---

**Prepared By:** Katie Hart

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18, 3/25

---

#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for distribution to specified nonprofit organizations to support Indigenous language interpretation. The measure declares an emergency and is effective July 1, 2025.

#### Detailed Summary:

Appropriates \$1.5 million to Pueblo Unido PDX for the following purposes:

- Facilitating the creation of language proficiency evaluation for interpreters of Indigenous languages spoken in Mexico, Central America, and South America.
- Recruiting, training, retaining, and coordinating interpreters for individuals with these language needs.

Appropriates \$500,000 to Oregon Worker Relief for the following purposes:

- Paying interpreters who interpret in languages that are the national language of small countries from which local populations have emigrated, small ethnic minority groups, or Indigenous groups.

Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

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

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

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Use of funding provided.
- Interpretation services available in various settings.

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment removes the appropriation to Oregon Worker Relief.

*Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued.*

*Revenue impact: No revenue impact.*

#### BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, an estimated 15% of the population five years and older speak a language other than English at home and an estimated 5.5% of the population five years and older report speaking English less than "very well" ([Legislative Policy and Research Office Language Access Services](#)). In 2023, the State of Oregon approved \$2 million to Pueblo Unido PDX to support the development of language proficiency evaluation mechanisms for Indigenous languages. The State additionally appropriated \$500,000 to Oregon Worker Relief to compensate interpreters of "languages of limited diffusion" ([2023-25 Budget Highlights](#)).

House Bill 2976 appropriates funds to Pueblo Unido PDX and Oregon Worker Relief to support Indigenous language interpretation.