

SB 599 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Campos

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/12/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-1-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Broadman, Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, McLane, Prozanski

Nays: 1 - Thatcher

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Kris Kolta, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/5, 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

This measure prohibits rental housing discrimination based on immigration or citizenship status.

Detailed Summary:

- Prohibits a landlord from inquiring into the citizenship status of an applicant, tenant, or household member except as necessary to comply with federal laws subsidizing housing.
- Directs a landlord to accept any combination of the following from a tenant or applicant as necessary to verify name, birthdate, and physical appearance:
 - a social security card;
 - a certified birth certificate;
 - a permanent resident card;
 - a visa;
 - an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number card;
 - a passport, driver’s license or other government-issued identification; or
 - any combination of identifications that would permit reasonable identity verification.
- Prohibits a landlord from rejecting a housing application for an applicant’s failure to provide a social security number or prove lawful presence in the United States.
- Prohibits a landlord from disclosing or threatening to disclose immigration or citizenship status with the intent or purpose to harass, intimidate, or retaliate.
- Renders a landlord’s violation subject to the landlord tenant act, ORS 90.390.
- Allows the victim of housing discrimination to seek equitable and injunctive relief along with their costs and attorney fees under ORS 659A.885.
- Declares an emergency, effective on passage.
- Becomes operative 30 days after effective date

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Similar laws in other jurisdictions
- The emergency clause
- Discrimination based on perceived immigration status
- Portland City Code, 30.01.086 (D)(1)
- Housing instability, insecurity, and discrimination
- Oregon’s Fair Housing Act
- National origin protection

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment makes technical changes, narrows the prohibition on a landlord’s disclosures, establishes remedies for violations, eliminates the prohibition against immigration-status discrimination in housing sales, and

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declares an emergency.

Detailed Summary:

- Clarifies that rental housing discrimination based on either “immigration or citizenship status” is prohibited and harmonizes associated references in the measure.
- Allows landlords to inquire about immigration or citizenship status to comply with federal laws subsidizing housing.
- Allows landlords to accept a combination of the listed documents to verify name, birthdate, and physical appearance.
- Narrows the prohibition on a landlord’s disclosure of immigration or citizenship status to disclosures or threats of disclosure made to harass, intimidate, or retaliate.
- Renders a landlord’s violation of the measure subject to the landlord tenant act, ORS 90.390.
- Allows the victim of housing discrimination to seek equitable and injunctive relief along with their costs and attorney fees under ORS 659A.885.
- Removes the provisions of the measure making immigration status a protected class under Oregon’s FHA, thereby rendering the measure applicable only to rental housing.
- Declares an emergency; effective on passage; operative 30 days thereafter.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination based upon “the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, marital status, familial status or source of income of any person.” ORS 659A.421. The federal Fair Housing Act similarly prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, or national origin. 42 U.S. Code § 3604.

The City of Portland has adopted an ordinance akin to certain provisions of the measure. The Portland ordinance prohibits a landlord from inquiring into a housing applicant’s immigration status and requires that landlords only rely on specified documents to verify an applicant’s identity. [Portland City Code, 30.01.086 \(D\)\(1\)](#).