

A-Engrossed Senate Bill 149

Ordered by the Senate April 17
Including Senate Amendments dated April 17

Sponsored by Senators JAMA, MANNING JR (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Tells DHS to contract to provide support services to refugees. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.3).

[Digest: Makes DHS do a study on immigration and submit a report on its findings. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.7).]

[Requires the Department of Human Services to study immigration. Directs the department to submit findings to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services not later than September 15, 2026.]

[Sunsets on January 2, 2027.]

Requires the Department of Human Services to contract with eligible entities to provide support services to refugees residing in this state, for up to 24 months, and immigration assistance and referrals to individuals who are seeking a refugee status. Defines "eligible entity" and modifies definition of "refugee."

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to immigration; amending ORS 411.139.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 411.139 is amended to read:

411.139. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Eligible [agency] **entity**" means:

(A) An [agency] **entity** that has, **or previously had**, contracted with the United States Department of State under 8 U.S.C. [1522(c)] **1522(b) or (c)** to provide initial resettlement and case management services to refugees.

(B) A culturally responsive or specific organization that is designed to effectively meet the needs of individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences through an understanding and respect for the beliefs, practices, culture and linguistic needs of the diverse populations and communities that the entity serves.

(b) "Refugee" means an individual who is not a United States citizen, who has been in the United States for 60 months or less and who is **or has been** any of the following:

(A) A refugee admitted under 8 U.S.C. 1157.

(B) An asylee admitted under 8 U.S.C. 1158.

(C) A Cuban or Haitian entrant as defined in 45 C.F.R. 401.2.

(D) A parolee admitted under 8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5).

(E) An Amerasian immigrant lawfully admitted to the United States who is described in 8 U.S.C. 1612(a)(2)(A)(v).

(F) A victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons and the victim's family members who are

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

eligible for benefits and services from federal and state programs under 22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(A).

(G) An Iraqi or an Afghan citizen who is a principal noncitizen provided with the status of special immigrant by the United States Department of Homeland Security under:

(i) Section 1059(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, P.L. 109-163, 119 Stat. 3444;

(ii) Section 1244(b) of the Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act of 2007, P.L. 110-181, 122 Stat. 397; or

(iii) Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, P.L. 111-8, 123 Stat. 807.

(H) An individual who:

(i) Is pursuing immigration assistance;

(ii) Is not receiving support services under an eligible immigration status designated by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement; and

(iii) Has been residing in this state for 24 months or less.

(2) The Department of Human Services shall award *[grants]* **contracts** to eligible *[agencies]* **entities** to provide the following services to refugees residing in this state, for up to 24 months:

(a) Assisting refugees with department programs by:

(A) Referring refugees to the department *[within three days of the refugee's arrival in this state]*;

(B) Completing applications for assistance;

(C) Transporting the refugee to the initial appointments with the department;

(D) Providing to the department all necessary eligibility information known to the eligible *[agency]* **entity**; and

(E) Coordinating services of the department with other social service *[agencies]* **entities**.

(b) Assisting refugees with:

(A) Navigating the health care and mental health systems, including providing assistance in applying for medical assistance;

(B) Accessing housing *[assistance]* and finding stable housing;

(C) Setting up utilities and paying utility bills;

(D) Issues with landlords;

(E) Navigating legal or criminal issues including services for victims of crime;

(F) Accessing in-home services including parenting assistance, English as a second language instruction, medical and psychosocial support; and

(G) Navigating the culture of the United States.

(c) Providing transportation to appointments.

(d) Training refugees on using public transportation.

(e) Providing immigration assistance and referrals.

(f) Advocating on behalf of refugees regarding domestic violence, federal laws and hate crimes.

(g) Providing refugees with interpretation services and assistance with access to language services.

(h) Providing referrals for refugees to culturally specific support groups and services, including religious organizations.

(i) Pairing refugees with volunteers for English as a second language training and ongoing language support.

(j) Providing support to refugees in budgeting and achieving financial literacy.

(k) Identifying refugees' employment skills and providing referrals to employment skills training and other job support services.

- 1 (L) Problem solving with refugees and assisting refugees with life skills development.
- 2 (m) Ensuring that refugees have access to psychosocial support and emotional wellness educa-
- 3 tion.
- 4 (n) Coordinating medical services for refugees including referring to and coordinating with
- 5 [agencies] **entities** that determine eligibility for disability benefits.
- 6 (o) Providing family preservation services, legal services and social service support for domestic
- 7 violence and child welfare issues.
- 8 (p) Assisting newly arrived refugee children in accessing services to strengthen the children's
- 9 academic performance and successful integration into the community.
- 10 (q) Other services necessary to assist refugees in accessing programs administered by the de-
- 11 partment.
- 12 **(3) In addition to the services listed under subsection (2) of this section, the department**
- 13 **shall award contracts to eligible entities to provide immigration assistance and referrals to**
- 14 **individuals who are seeking a status listed under subsection (1)(b)(A) to (G) of this section.**
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