



**To:** The Legislative Assembly

**From:** Chad Dresselhaus, Executive Director  
[Chad.W.Dresselhaus@state.or.us](mailto:Chad.W.Dresselhaus@state.or.us)  
(971) 673-1502

**Date:** November 22, 2019

**Subject:** Senate Bill 855 (2019)

---

SB 855 requires that each professional licensing board shall study the manner in which persons who are immigrants or refugees become licensed, certified or otherwise authorized in the occupational or professional service regulated by the professional licensing board. Each professional licensing board shall develop and implement methods to reduce barriers to licensure, certification or other authorization for applicants who may be immigrants or refugees.

Each professional licensing board shall report to the Legislative Assembly on the professional licensing board's progress in meeting the requirements of SB 855 not later than November 30, 2019.

**License/certificate types:**

- **Facility Licenses:**

(1) Funeral Establishment; (2) Cemetery Authority; (3) Crematory Authority; (4) Alternative Disposition Company; (5) Immediate Disposition Company; and (6) Removal Registration.

- **Individual Licenses:**

(1) Funeral Service Practitioner (FSP); (2) Embalmer; (3) Combination (FSP & Embalmer); (4) Preneed Salesperson; (5) Death Care Consultant; (6) Apprentice/Trainee (Funeral Service Practitioner and/or Embalmer); and (7) Intern (Funeral Service Practitioner and/or Embalmer).

**Summarized requirements (vary by license type):**

- **For Funeral Service Practitioner:** Completion of an Associate's degree or higher from a school accredited by an Association of Schools and Colleges (OAR 830-011-0020[5]), complete apprenticeship & pass law examination
- **For Embalmer:** Completion of an accredited course of funeral service education (OAR 830-011-0020[5]), complete apprenticeship & pass either Oregon embalmer examination or the National Board Examination
- **For Death Care Consultant:** Pass examination

\*All Individual license types require a background check, including 10-year work and residential history, criminal history review and review of any previously held licenses.



**Current limitations/barriers to licensure/certification for immigrants/refugees:**

Completion of an Associate's degree or higher and/or an accredited course of funeral service education; awareness and knowledge of Oregon rules and regulations; access to website and available resources (technology); language barriers when completing applications & taking examinations.

**Board proposals to remove limitations/barriers to licensure/certification:**

Proactive outreach through local schools/community centers/organizations, including but not limited to MHCC, IRCO, etc.; provide translation services throughout the application process, which would include translation of application materials.

**Other considerations to removing limitations/barriers to licensure/certification:**

Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board staff has initiated their review of the path to licensure for immigrants and refugees in order to properly identify any barriers these individuals may encounter, and will present their findings at a future board meeting in 2020. The review will include direct outreach to licensees, local immigrant and refugee service agencies and MHCC's Funeral Service Program. This process will most likely include the administration of a survey, in order to better understand the needs of the immigrant/refugee population.

\*Any member of the Legislative Assembly who wishes to obtain a copy of this report may contact me at [Chad.W.Dresselhaus@state.or.us](mailto:Chad.W.Dresselhaus@state.or.us) or (971) 673-1502.