



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Experiences of Immigrant and Refugee Oregonians Will Inform State Responses to Federal Immigration Practices

Senate Bill 1594 directs the Oregon Department of Justice to consult with Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement

SALEM, OR – A Senate bill passed today ensures the actual experiences of immigrant and refugee Oregonians are represented in the state’s effort to update guidance for agencies that may face pressures from the federal government’s immigration agents.

“This is a simple bill that does only one thing: direct the Oregon Department of Justice to collaborate with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement when they update their sanctuary law model policies,” said chief sponsor of the measure, **Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – E Portland, Boring & Damascus)**.

Our state has a 1987 law to keep local government out of immigration enforcement, a federal responsibility. Amid increased brutality and diminished accountability among federal immigration agents, Oregon government may update model policies on carrying out this Sanctuary Promise, spelling out how state workers should respond when federal officials want their assistance. Senate Bill 1594 makes Oregon’s Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA) a key partner for developing those policies.

OIRA was established in 2021 and advances fairness and belonging for immigrant and refugee communities in Oregon by advising state leadership, elevating community voice, strengthening partnerships, providing accurate information, and shaping state policy that improves access and opportunity.

“I’m championing Senate Bill 1594 bill because I know that immigrants and refugees make Oregon communities and our economies stronger by being here,” said **Senator Jama**. “We are farmers, teachers, caregivers, small business owners—even legislators. Oregon is our home.”

The measure passed in a vote of 18 to 11. It now moves to the Oregon House of Representatives. Oregon’s short legislative session must end by March 8 according to the state constitution.

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