



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Oregon Senate Bill Defines Identity Verification Options in Housing Applications, Bolsters Tenant Privacy

Legislation spells out ID documents landlords may review with housing applications

SALEM, OR – The Senate Committee on Judiciary heard public testimony Wednesday on a bill to keep immigration status out of housing decisions. Senate Bill 599 specifies at least seven types of official documentation tenants can choose from and landlords must accept to prove the applicant's identity.

The legislation also prohibits landlords from asking about or disclosing the immigration status of a tenant, rental applicant, or household member. Current law prohibits housing discrimination based on race or national origin, but not immigration status.

"This bill extends basic protections everyone living in Oregon deserves: the ability to secure and maintain stable housing without fear," Cameron Herrington of the Oregon Housing Alliance told the committee.

Growing bigotry against immigrants raises the risk of unfair application denials or threats of retaliation through the immigration system.

Under Senate Bill 599, landlords can verify applicants and run credit checks but cannot limit tenant identification to forms that are presumed to be tied to citizenship or permanent residency. The proposed law designates as acceptable social security cards, birth certificates, "green cards," travel and immigration visas, taxpayer ID number cards from the IRS, passports, driver licenses, other government IDs, and reasonably verifiable nongovernment IDs.

"This bill is not just a policy change—it is a moral imperative. Let me be clear. The population we are talking about here are our neighbors, friends, and integral members of our community," said **Senator Wlmsvey Campos (D-Aloha)**, BIPOC Caucus Co-Chair and chief sponsor of the bill.

“The safety and security that a home represents should be available to all people who call Oregon home.”

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