



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Oregon Senate Bill to Protect Housing Access Passes Chamber

Landlords can check rental applicants' identities and credit records, not immigration status, under new legislation

SALEM, OR – Under an Oregon Senate bill on the floor today, landlords can verify identities of rental applicants and run credit checks on them, but proof documents cannot be limited to forms of ID that are presumed to be tied to citizenship or permanent residency. The bill passed in a vote of 21 to 8.

"Immigrant communities throughout the state pay taxes, support local businesses, and strengthen our economy every single day," said the bill's chief sponsor, **Senator Winsvey Campos (D – Aloha)**. "This bill is a reasonable and fair solution to ensure that all Oregonians, regardless of where they were born or are from, have the opportunity to secure safe housing."

The legislation, SB 599, names multiple forms of ID landlords must accept: 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. The bill passed today also bans landlords from asking about or disclosing the immigration status of a tenant, rental applicant, or household member.

National political rhetoric has derided immigrants and cultivated prejudice against people assumed to be immigrants. This climate raises the risk that housing applications will be unfairly denied or that tenants will face retaliation when they request repairs or report a hazard. Current law prohibits housing discrimination based on race or national origin, but not immigration status.

The measure goes next to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

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