

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Joint Ways and Means Committee
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, Dallum, Komp, Krummel, Lim, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Greenlick
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Derrick Olsen, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/9

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Changes the statutes for the State Library's Ready to Read Grant program in two ways: 1) requires that grant funds be used for early literacy programs for children from birth to age five, or for summer reading programs for children up to age 14, or both; and 2) institutes a minimum grant of \$1,000.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- performance measures – focus on outcomes
- local library programs
- funding level

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment

**BACKGROUND:** According to State Librarian Jim Scheppke, in 2005 the State Library Board gave a grant to the Multnomah County Library to undertake a Statewide Early Literacy Planning Initiative involving public libraries and other early childhood education stakeholders throughout the state. In December 2005, the leaders of the initiative came to the State Library Board and asked that they change the Ready to Read Grant program to focus the program on early literacy and summer reading programs in public libraries. The Board agreed, required a \$1,000 minimum grant so that even small public libraries can have an effective Ready to Read Grant program, and submitted a legislative concept to the Governor in April 2006. In fall 2006, the Governor agreed to introduce the bill on behalf of the Board. The minimum grant will affect the 50 smallest libraries which will see their grants increase significantly, some from zero.

The State Library states that it has established four performance measures for the Ready to Read Grant program that will be tracked and reported annually. The Oregon Library Association, the Commission on Children and Families, and the Department of Education support this bill, according to the State Librarian.

The Governor's Recommended Budget includes \$1,496,417 for the Ready to Read Grant program, an increase of \$286,006 in 2007-09. The budget is approximately \$1 per child per year, up from the current .85 per child per year.

House Bill 2116 had a subsequent referral to the Joint Ways and Means Committee, but after reviewing the bill and the State Library's budget, the Legislative Fiscal Office suggested that the Education Committee recommend rescinding that subsequent referral to Ways and Means. The Education Committee requested and received approval from the Speaker to rescind the subsequent referral.

2/12/2007 4:52:00 PM

***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***