

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs grants for public library services to be used for early literacy services for children from birth to age five and to provide statewide summer reading program for children from birth to age fourteen. Establishes minimum grant amount. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Minimum grant amount
- Safety net dollars for libraries

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: According to the State Librarian, in 2005 the State Library Board gave a grant through the Ready to Read Grant Program 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 asked the State Library Board to change the 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 could have an effective grant program, and submitted a legislative concept to the Governor. In Fall 2006, the Governor agreed to introduce this bill on behalf of the board.

The minimum grant amount in the bill will affect the 50 smallest libraries which will see their grants increase significantly, some from zero. The State Library has established four performance measures for the Ready to Read Grant program that will be tracked and reported on annually.