

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	10 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Dembrow, Harker, Huffman, Komp, Maurer, Roblan, Sprenger, Thatcher, VanOrman, Gelser
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Kevin T. Christiansen, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Designates March 16, 2009 as Start Making A Reader Today (SMART) Reading Day and commemorates the volunteers of the SMART program for the work they do in ensuring that children today succeed as readers in the future.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Empowering children to read
- Volunteers helping children in schools discover the enjoyment of reading
- Providing reading materials to children

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** States that 84 percent of Oregon third graders meet or exceed state reading standards and that SMART plays a valuable role in raising literacy proficiency of Oregon children. Removes language from the preamble regarding the assertion that one in three Oregon fourth-graders reads below grade level.

**BACKGROUND:** Start Making A Reader Today (SMART) is a homegrown reading program founded in Oregon in 1992. Over the past 17 years, SMART has provided 1,458,000 books to children and provided nearly 2.4 million volunteer hours to Oregon schools. Each year, thousands of volunteers read one-on-one with two children for 28 weeks.