

## HB 2247 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Education

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**Prepared By:** Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Student Success

**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 2/18, 3/13

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Early Learning Division (ELD) to develop, implement, and administer Oregon Imagination Library Project to improve third-grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates by providing free books. Allows children to enroll at age four. Allows ELD to enter into contract with national book giving foundation, school districts, and non-profits. Allows contracted entity to match amount of at least 50 percent of the funds required to carry out project. Allows ELD to implement rules to carry out project, and establish advisory committee to develop, implement, and administer project. Establishes Oregon Imagination Library Account in ELD fund. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance in teaching children to read
- Interest in providing more bilingual books
- Fiscal impact of program on Early Learning Division

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces contents of measure. Establishes the Oregon Imagination Library Project within the Early Learning Division (ELD) to improve kindergarten readiness and third-grade reading proficiency by providing free books to children who are enrolled in local imagination library program each month from birth to age five. Requires ELD support program by entering into partnership with national book gifting foundation that has contracts with program affiliates to have division pay 50 percent of the monthly contract cost. Requires ELD assist local imagination library programs in program establishment, recruiting volunteers, and enrolling children. Allows ELD to enter into contract with statewide organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code to raise moneys and assist in implementation of the project. Allows the division to create an advisory committee to make recommendations on how to best develop implement and administer the project. Allows Early Learning Council to prescribe rules for distributions. Establishes Oregon Imagination Library Account within ELD. Requires ELD distribute funds from Oregon Imagination Library Account beginning June 1, 2021 to programs located in counties that have population less than 100,000 and existed prior to July 1, 2018. Requires ELD distribute funds beginning January 1, 2020 to programs not previously specified. Appropriates money from the General Fund to be deposited in Oregon Imagination Library Account. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal impact issued

#### BACKGROUND:

Dolly Parton started the Imagination Library book program in 1995. It allows local affiliates to raise money to provide books mailed directly to each child from birth to age five. The books are provided by a 50/50 matching fund through local contributions and the Dolly Parton Foundation. In Oregon, 42 Imagination Library affiliates exist, and these are located in 28 counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

PRELIMINARY