

## HB 2247 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Education

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**Action Date:** 03/13/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments  
and be referred to Student Success by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 8-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Alonso Leon, Doherty, Helt, Neron, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Wallan

**Nays:** 1 - Hernandez

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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

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

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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 that existed prior to July 1, 2018 and located in counties that have population less than 100,000 and to other programs beginning January 1, 2020. Appropriates unspecified amount of money from the General Fund to be deposited in Oregon Imagination Library Account. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### 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.

House Bill 2247-A establishes the Oregon Imagination Library Project within the Early Learning Division (ELD). The mission of the Project is 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. The Dolly Parton Foundation currently picks up 50 percent of the contract costs; this measure requires that 50 percent is state funded. It also requires the ELD support the local imagination library programs in their establishment,

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volunteer recruitment, and enrolling children.