

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Digest: The Act establishes a program to provide a free book each month to certain children. (Flesch Readability Score: 67.5).

Establishes the Oregon Imagination Library Program to provide a free book each month to eligible children, encourage children to develop a love of reading and learning and improve school readiness, third-grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates. Directs the Department of Early Learning and Care to implement and administer the program. Authorizes the Early Learning Council, in consultation with the department, to adopt rules necessary to implement the program.

Establishes the Oregon Imagination Library Account within the department for purposes of funding the program.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to children’s literacy.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **“Eligible children” means children from birth to five years of**
6 **age who reside in this state.**

7 (b) **“National nonprofit foundation” means a national nonprofit**
8 **foundation that works with local entities in this state to provide age-**
9 **appropriate, high-quality books each month to eligible children at no**
10 **cost to families.**

11 (2) **The Oregon Imagination Library Program is established for the**
12 **purpose of:**

13 (a) **Providing a free, age-appropriate book each month to eligible**
14 **children who are enrolled in the program;**

15 (b) **Encouraging children from birth to five years of age to develop**

1 a deep love of reading and learning; and

2 (c) Improving school readiness, third-grade reading proficiency and
3 high school graduation rates.

4 (3) The Department of Early Learning and Care shall implement
5 and administer the program, including by entering into a contract
6 with a statewide nonprofit entity that is exempt from taxation under
7 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code under which the state-
8 wide nonprofit entity shall:

9 (a) Serve as the program coordinator and operations manager;

10 (b) Ensure the program is available to all eligible children in this
11 state regardless of county or zip code;

12 (c) Provide moneys to a national nonprofit foundation for the pur-
13 pose of covering the wholesale cost and mailing of books to children
14 enrolled in the program;

15 (d) Promote the program and increase enrollment across the state
16 in consultation with local stakeholders; and

17 (e) Solicit, receive and manage donations, gifts and other private
18 funding to support the program.

19 (4) The department shall undertake reasonable measures to ensure
20 that state funds do not exceed 50 percent of the total cost to carry out
21 the program in any fiscal year, including the wholesale cost and
22 mailing of books to children enrolled in the program.

23 (5) The Early Learning Council, in consultation with the depart-
24 ment, may adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this
25 section.

26 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Oregon Imagination Library Account is estab-
27 lished within the Department of Early Learning and Care Fund.

28 (2) The account shall consist of moneys appropriated or otherwise
29 transferred to the account by the Legislative Assembly and gifts,
30 grants, donations or other funds deposited into the account from any
31 source.

1 **(3) Separate records shall be maintained for moneys in the account,**
2 **and interest earned by the account shall be credited to the account.**

3 **(4) Moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the**
4 **Department of Early Learning and Care for the purpose of carrying**
5 **out the Oregon Imagination Library Program established under sec-**
6 **tion 1 of this 2026 Act.**

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