

HB 4022 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Oregon Imagination Library program and directs the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) to implement and administer the program.

Detailed Summary:

- Establishes the Oregon Imagination Library program to provide a free book each month to eligible children.
- Defines “eligible children” as children from birth through age five residing in Oregon.
- Requires DELC to contract with a statewide nonprofit entity to implement and administer the program.
- Allows the Early Learning Council to adopt rules necessary for delivering program services.
- Establishes the Oregon Imagination Library Account within the Department of Early Learning and Care Fund.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

- 1 The amendment specifies that state funds provided to a contractor do not exceed 50% of the total funds required to purchase and mail books to participants in a fiscal year.

BACKGROUND:

The [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#) gifts over 3 million free books each month to children around the world. In 2023, [Senate Bill 5506](#) appropriated \$1.7 million to DELC to administer and expand the Imagination Library Program across Oregon for the current biennium. The program is currently operational and would be permanently codified into statute by House Bill 4022. The legislature previously considered codifying the program with [House Bill 2811](#) (2025) and [House Bill 2872](#) (2023), neither of which passed.