

HB 4022 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

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Meeting Dates: 2/17, 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Oregon Imagination Library program to provide a free book each month to eligible children. It directs the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) to implement and administer the program.

Detailed Summary:

- Defines “eligible children” as children from birth through age 5 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
- Specifies that state funds provided to a contracted nonprofit do not exceed 50 percent of the total funds required to purchase and mail books to participants in a fiscal year

Fiscal impact: No fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

House vote: Ayes, 53; Nays, 4

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#) gifts over 3 million free books each month to children worldwide. In 2023, [Senate Bill 5506](#) appropriated \$1.7 million to DELC to administer and expand the Imagination Library program across Oregon for the 2025-2027 biennium. The program is currently operational and would be codified into statute by House Bill 4022 A. The legislature previously considered codifying the program through [House Bill 2811](#) (2025) and [House Bill 2872](#) (2023), neither of which was enacted.