

**HB 4022 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Patterson

**Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health**

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**Action Date:** 02/19/26

**Action:** Do pass the A-Eng bill.

**Vote:** 4-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Anderson, Gelser Blouin, Patterson, Reynolds

**Exc:** 1 - Linthicum

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Maurie Harbick, LPRO Fellow

**Meeting Dates:** 2/17, 2/19

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**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 (DELIC) to implement and administer the program.

Detailed Summary:

- Defines “eligible children” as children from birth through age 5 residing in Oregon
- Requires DELIC 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

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Cost per book
- Program funding
- Eligibility
- Distribution and program awareness
- Multilingual options

**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 DELIC 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.