

Enrolled House Bill 4022

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Rules for Representative Ben Bowman)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to children's literacy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) **Encouraging children from birth to five years of age to develop a deep love of reading and learning; and**

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

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

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

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

(c) **Provide moneys to a national nonprofit foundation for the purpose of covering the wholesale cost and mailing of books to children enrolled in the program;**

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

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

(4) **The department shall ensure that state funds provided to a contracted statewide nonprofit entity to cover the wholesale cost and mailing of books to children enrolled in the program do not exceed 50 percent of the total funds necessary for the cost and mailing of the books in a fiscal year.**

(5) The Early Learning Council, in consultation with the department, may adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Imagination Library Account is established within the Department of Early Learning and Care Fund.

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

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

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

Passed by House February 10, 2026

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate February 25, 2026

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2026

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2026

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Tina Kotek, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2026

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Tobias Read, Secretary of State