

House Bill 4022

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

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

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

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 age who reside in this**
6 **state.**

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

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

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

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

15 **(c) Improving school readiness, third-grade reading proficiency and high school gradu-**
16 **ation rates.**

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

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

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

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

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

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

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

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

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

10 SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Imagination Library Account is established within the De-
11 partment of Early Learning and Care Fund.

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

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

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

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