

HB 2247 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By: Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Student Success

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Early Learning Division (ELD) to develop, implement, and administer Oregon Imagination Library Project to improve third-grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates by providing free books. Allows children to enroll at age four. Allows ELD to enter into contract with national book giving foundation, school districts, and non-profits. Allows contracted entity to match amount of at least 50 percent of the funds required to carry out project. Allows ELD to implement rules to carry out project, and establish advisory committee to develop, implement, and administer project. Establishes Oregon Imagination Library Account in ELD fund. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance in teaching children to read
- Interest in providing more bilingual books

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces contents of measure. Establishes Oregon Imagination Library Project (project) to improve third grade reading proficiency and high school graduation ratios. Requires Early Learning Division (ELD) develop, implement, and administer the project. Ensures every child may receive an age-appropriate book each month until age five. Allows ELD enter into partnership with national book gifting foundation. Requires school district or organization provide matching amount of 50 percent or more to carry out contract. Requires ELD assist school districts by providing outreach to local communities and technical assistance with recruitment of volunteers, solicitation of donations, and enrollment of children. Allows Early Learning Council adopt rules to establish distribution with partnerships and implement provisions. Allows ELD create an advisory committee to administer project. Establishes project restrictions beginning January 1, 2020, using population and program existence. Appropriates money from the General Fund to Oregon Imagination Library Account established within ELD. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

BACKGROUND:

Dolly Parton started the Imagination Library book program in 1995. It allows local affiliates to raise money to provide books mailed directly to each child from birth to age five. The books are provided by a 50/50 matching fund through local contributions and the Dolly Parton Foundation. In Oregon, 42 Imagination Library affiliates exist, and these are located in 28 counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.