

## HB 2872 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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**Action Date:** 03/29/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 10-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 10 - Andersen, Cramer, Elmer, Hartman, Hieb, Nelson, Neron, Nguyen H, Reynolds, Scharf

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Matthew Perreault, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/1, 3/29

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Oregon Imagination Library Program. Directs Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to implement program by contracting with, coordinating, and providing oversight of nonprofit entity that promotes reading for young children. Specifies requirements for nonprofit entity to promote book-gifting programs in local communities. Authorizes Early Learning Council to adopt rules for implementation. Establishes Oregon Imagination Library Account within Department of Early Learning and Care Fund. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reading proficiency benchmarks and on-track graduation rates
- Prevalence of books in households with young children
- Features of nationwide Imagination Library program
- Eligibility and scope of book-gifting program
- State early literacy goals

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library began in 1995 as a book-gifting program for young children in Sevier County, Tennessee, through which every enrolled child under age 5 would receive a free, age-appropriate book each month, regardless of family income. Since then, the program has spread nationwide to every state and abroad to Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Ireland. The program partners with local libraries and community organizations as affiliates to enroll children and coordinate book delivery to families. Local affiliates enter enrollment information into a national database and transfer \$2.20 per child per month to the national organization, which sends books to each enrolled family at no cost to the family. According to several peer-reviewed studies, the program is associated with positive outcomes with regard to early literacy and kindergarten readiness.

House Bill 2872 A establishes the Oregon Imagination Library Program and directs the Department of Early Learning and Care to partner with a national organization that works through local communities to deliver free books to young children.