

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2872**

Ordered by the House March 31  
Including House Amendments dated March 31

Sponsored by Representative BOWMAN, Senator PATTERSON, Representatives ANDERSEN, HARTMAN; Representatives ELMER, EVANS, GRAYBER, LEVY E, NERON, NGUYEN H, REYNOLDS, WRIGHT (at the request of United Ways of the Pacific Northwest)

**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.

*[Directs Department of Early Learning and Care to develop, implement and administer Oregon Imagination Library Project to improve reading proficiency and high school graduation rates by providing enrolled children with one age-appropriate book per child each month.]*

**Establishes Imagination Library of Oregon Program to provide free book each month to eligible children, encourage children to develop love of reading and learning, and improve third-grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates. Directs Department of Early Learning and Care to implement program.**

Establishes Oregon Imagination Library Account within Department of Early Learning and Care Fund for purposes of funding *[project]* **program.**

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to encouragement of reading in young children; and declaring an emergency.

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 exists for**  
8 **the purpose of working with local entities to identify eligible children and mail age-**  
9 **appropriate, high quality books each month to those children at no cost to families.**

10 (2) **The Imagination Library of Oregon Program is established. The purposes of the**  
11 **program are to:**

12 (a) **Provide a free book each month to eligible children;**

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

15 (c) **Improve third-grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates.**

16 (3) **The Department of Early Learning and Care shall implement the program established**  
17 **under this section by entering into a contract with, coordinating and providing oversight of**  
18 **a nonprofit entity that is:**

19 (a) **Exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and**

20 (b) **Organized under the laws of this state to:**

21 (A) **Manage the program established under this section; and**

22 (B) **Promote and encourage reading by children by developing, implementing, promoting**

**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 and fostering a statewide initiative to encourage children from birth to five years of age to  
2 develop a love of reading and learning.

3 (4) The nonprofit entity described in subsection (3) of this section shall:

4 (a) Provide an amount of at least 50 percent of the funds required to carry out the pro-  
5 gram established under this section;

6 (b) Promote the statewide development of local book-gifting programs;

7 (c) Provide outreach to local communities about developing local book-gifting programs  
8 in those communities;

9 (d) Recruit community partners to assist in the implementation and administration of  
10 local book-gifting programs;

11 (e) Advance and strengthen local book-gifting programs with the goal of increasing en-  
12 rollment;

13 (f) Develop community engagement related to local book-gifting programs;

14 (g) Develop, promote and coordinate a public awareness campaign to:

15 (A) Make donors aware of the opportunity to donate to the program established under  
16 this section; and

17 (B) Make the public aware of the opportunity to register eligible children to receive books  
18 through a local book-gifting program;

19 (h) Develop a statewide marketing and communications plan related to the program es-  
20 tablished under this section and local book-gifting programs;

21 (i) Solicit donations, gifts and other funding to support the program established under  
22 this section and local book-gifting programs; and

23 (j) Enter into a contract with a national nonprofit foundation to provide age-appropriate,  
24 high quality books each month to eligible children at no cost to families.

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

27 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Oregon Imagination Library Account is established within the De-  
28 partment of Early Learning and Care Fund. Separate records shall be maintained for mon-  
29 eys in the account. Interest earned by the account shall be credited to the account.

30 (2) Moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the Department of Early  
31 Learning and Care for the Imagination Library of Oregon Program established in section 1  
32 of this 2023 Act.

33 **SECTION 3.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
34 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect  
35 July 1, 2023.

36