

# House Bill 2872

Sponsored by Representative BOWMAN, Senator PATTERSON (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 **as introduced**.

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 Oregon Imagination Library Account within Early Learning Division Fund for purposes of funding project.

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) The Oregon Imagination Library Project is established for the purpose**  
5 **of improving third-grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates by providing**  
6 **free books to young children in this state.**

7 **(2)(a) The Department of Early Learning and Care shall develop, implement and admin-**  
8 **ister the project. The department shall ensure that, under the project, every enrolled child**  
9 **has the opportunity to receive an age-appropriate book each month.**

10 **(b) A child is eligible to be enrolled if the child is at least four years of age and has not**  
11 **started kindergarten.**

12 **(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this subsection, the department may determine that**  
13 **children younger than four years of age may be eligible to be enrolled if resources are**  
14 **available to enroll younger children.**

15 **(3) For the purpose of administering the project, the department may enter into a con-**  
16 **tract with:**

17 **(a) A national book gifting foundation that works in collaboration with local nonprofit**  
18 **organizations and government agencies to provide free books to children from birth until the**  
19 **children begin school.**

20 **(b) One or more school districts, nonprofit organizations or other entities that are ex-**  
21 **empt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to collaborate with**  
22 **the department to:**

23 **(A) Provide outreach to local communities about the project;**

24 **(B) Recruit volunteers to assist in the implementation and administration of the project;**

25 **(C) Solicit donations, gifts and other funding to financially support the project;**

26 **(D) Develop a process for enrolling children in the project; or**

27 **(E) Enroll children in the project.**

28 **(4) The department may require that any nonprofit organization or other entity that is**

**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 exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that enters  
2 into a contract with the department provide a matching amount of at least 50 percent of the  
3 funds required to carry out the project as described in the contract.

4 (5) The department may create an advisory committee to advise the department and  
5 make recommendations on how best to develop, implement and administer the project.

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

8 SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Imagination Library Account is established within the Early  
9 Learning Division Fund. Separate records shall be maintained for moneys in the account.  
10 Interest earned by the account shall be credited to the account.

11 (2) Moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the Department of Early  
12 Learning and Care for the Oregon Imagination Library Project described in section 1 of this  
13 2023 Act.

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

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