

HB 4022 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Bowman

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Action Date: 02/05/26

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yea: 7 - Hartman, McIntire, Ruiz, Scharf, Walters, Wise, Yunker

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Maurie Harbick, LPRO Fellow

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Oregon Imagination Library program to provide a free book each month to eligible children. It directs the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) to implement and administer the program.

Detailed Summary:

- Defines “eligible children” as children from birth through age 5 residing in Oregon
- Requires DELC to contract with a statewide nonprofit entity to implement and administer the program
- Allows the Early Learning Council to adopt rules necessary for delivering program services
- Establishes the Oregon Imagination Library Account within the Department of Early Learning and Care Fund
- Specifies that state funds provided to a contracted nonprofit do not exceed 50 percent of the total funds required to purchase and mail books to participants in a fiscal year

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment specifies that state funds provided to a contracted nonprofit do not exceed 50 percent of the total funds required to purchase and mail books to participants in a fiscal year.

BACKGROUND:

The [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#) gifts over 3 million free books each month to children worldwide. In 2023, [Senate Bill 5506](#) appropriated \$1.7 million to DELC to administer and expand the Imagination Library program across Oregon for the current biennium. The program is currently operational and would be codified into statute by House Bill 4022. The legislature previously considered codifying the program through [House Bill 2811](#) (2025) and [House Bill 2872](#) (2023), neither of which was enacted.