

SB

148

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 3/21/97

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3/27/97
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 4/4/97

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 148

"An Act relating to libraries."

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to the _____ Committee

- Senate Bill:**
- same title
 - new title
- House Bill:**
- same title
 - technical title
 - new: SCR# _____

SIGNING/DQ PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>Tom D. Ryan</i>	✓	<i>J. Gellers</i>	X		
<i>J. Gellers</i>	✓				
<i>G</i>					
CHAIR: <i>G. Mueller</i>	✓	CHAIR:			

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
Education	4/2/97	✓	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL NO. SB 148

1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: 21-Mar-97 Dept. Affected: EDUCATION
 Title: An Act relating to libraries BRU: Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums
 Component: Libraries
 Sponsor: Sen. Torgerson
 Requester: HESS COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 208

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGES IN REVENUES						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
Other:						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

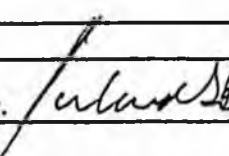
Estimate of current year (FY97) cost: \$

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill has no fiscal impact on the Department of Education nor will it have any on the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. The bill addresses the following issues: 1) It provides a definition of public libraries, and how they can be established, organized, and administered; and what services need to be provided in order to be eligible for the Public Library Assistance Grant program; 2) It clarifies eligibility for the already existing grant programs administered by the State Library; 3) It revises the Public Library Assistance Grant program by requiring local effort but also allowing in-kind contributions; and 4) repeals two public library construction statutes because these programs no longer exist. The State Library is already administering all programs impacted by the bill.

Prepared by: George V. Smith
 Division: Libraries, Archives & Museums
 Approved by Commissioner: Shirley J. Holloway, Ph.D. 
 Agency: Department of Education

Phone: 465-2910
 Date: 4/1/97
 Date: 4-2-97

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Senator John Torgerson

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Sponsor Statement

SB 148 "An Act relating to libraries."

At the present time, there is no statutory definition of what a public library is; how it is established, organized, administered, or what services it should provide. SB 148 addresses those matters.

Since the enactment of the Public Library Assistance Grant program in 1982, a total of 55 new public libraries have been established. Unfortunately, 25 of them closed after only one or two years of operation, in part because of an unrealistic understanding of the effort needed to operate a public library.

Obviously, new libraries place pressure on the limited funds available for this service and funds allocated to those which subsequently closed unfortunately served to dilute those limited funds. SB 148 should help to alleviate this problem, thereby stabilizing the amounts made available to the public library community.

This bill (companion to HB 197) also revises some current language in the grant programs. A substantial change is the change in the formula for funding the grants. Currently, the funds are distributed by providing a \$5,000 basic grant, without any local effort or contribution. Up to an additional \$5,000 is then awarded on a one-to-one match of local funds. (The state has provided no more than a \$2,000 match in recent years, so that no library receives more than a total of \$7,000.)

This bill combines the basic and matching components into one basic grant of \$7,000, which requires a one-to-one local match (this bill allows for "in-kind" local matches). In the event there are funds remaining after that disbursement, the balance will be appropriated on a per capita basis.

This bill also repeals two public library construction grant programs which are no longer funded, although the repeal date does not take effect until June 30, 1999, so current projects can be closed out.

This bill was drafted at the request of the public library community and is supported by the directors of the 18 largest public libraries. It is also supported by the Alaska Municipal League's Education Subcommittee.

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Sectional Analysis

SB 148 "An Act relating to libraries."

Section 1: Amends existing grant fund to include "regional library services".

Section 2: (a) Amends the eligibility section of the existing grant fund by listing certain requirements for public libraries; requirements are:

- (1) must be established under new section in this bill (section 6); or if in a municipality without a public library established under the section, a library that:
 - (A) is a nonprofit and holds public meetings
 - (B) provides services listed in new section 6
 - (C) the municipality passes a resolution supporting the grant
- (2) must share resources free of charge to other libraries in the state (interlibrary); and
- (3) libraries which provide regional library services.

(b) Language stating that only one library per city or community is eligible for a grant during a fiscal year under previous (a)(1) above. Language stating library described in (a)2 above is eligible for interlibrary assistance grant. Language stating library described in (a)(3) above is eligible for regional assistance grant.

Section 3: Amends current language:

- * revises the grant distribution to reflect a basic grant of not less than \$5,000 or more than \$7,000 and that there must be an equal local match of funds or in-kind services;
- * new language stating that the value of in-kind services shall be determined by the division director;
- new language providing for prorated funds if appropriation is not sufficient to fully fund the basic need;
- * new language providing for per capita distribution of funds if in excess of the basic grant;

Section 4: Amendment to regulations section, language directing that they must include grant eligibility qualifications and provisions for use of grant funds.

Section 5: New section regarding public library boards; establishment, membership, vacancies, officers, and authority.

Section 6: New section regarding public libraries; establishment, service provision requirements, and reporting requirements.

Section 7: Repealing section for Rural Community Libraries (AS 14.56.200; 14.56.210; 14.56.220, 14.56.230, 14.56.240) and Public Library Construction Grants (AS 14.56.350).



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Health, Education
& Social Services

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

committee name

committee on SB 148 (Public Libraries) dated

bill/subject

April 4, 1997

Good morning. I am unable to participate in your hearing on SB 148, Public Library Law. On behalf of the Alaska Library Association, and as a public library director, I urge you to support Alaska Public Library Law.

This legislation will provide the framework for communities to operate public libraries according to a definition of what a public library is and should offer. It will also call for increased local support and accountability in order for communities to receive grant funds.

Signed: Mary Gileen Commons Thank you.

Testifier

Alaska Library Association

Representing (Optional)

860 Century Drive, Wasilla, AK 99654

Address

907-376-4413

Phone No.

Senate Bill 148
Written testimony from hearing on April 4, 1997

I am Joyce Jenkins, director of the Petersburg Public Library. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The change in the time of your hearing this morning meant that some of the people who wanted to testify could not be here, but I would like you to know that this bill is important to the libraries of Alaska and to all who use and provide information in Alaska.

This bill does will provide increased accountability for libraries and clarifies just what a library is and what services it must provide to be eligible for funding. This is a needed improvement in the law.

The most difficult part of the discussions on these changes that have been going on among Alaskan libraries for several years now was how to balance the needs of the smallest libraries which serve isolated communities and the large libraries which are such important supports for both their own communities and the little places. After much discussion there was consensus among the librarians that the balance in this bill is a good compromise that meets the needs of both in a fair way. All communities, including tiny ones, are required to contribute to their libraries, but in kind contributions—their time and effort count. Having part of the formula be based on population supports our large libraries with a big population base to serve.

I encourage your support of this bill and appreciate the time you are taking to consider it this morning.

Joyce Jenkins
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