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HOUSE BILL 1505

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Jacobsen, L. Thomas, Poulsen and Mason

Read first time 01/27/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to libraries; adding new sections to chapter 27.04  
2 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that libraries have  
5 served as repositories of knowledge and public libraries have  
6 traditionally helped the general public access that knowledge. The  
7 legislature also finds that new and emerging technologies are expanding  
8 the ways that knowledge can be stored and disseminated. Through  
9 computer-based networks, interactive and multimedia programs, and other  
10 forms of electronic technologies, business, educational, and research  
11 information is becoming increasingly available to those with the  
12 equipment, funding, and expertise to access that information. The  
13 legislature finds that access to educational and research information  
14 from these technological applications will improve the quality of life  
15 for the people of the state of Washington. The legislature further  
16 finds that public libraries play a critical role in lifelong learning,  
17 and are the most effective agencies for ensuring that all Washington  
18 residents have access to information available through electronic  
19 technologies. Therefore, the legislature intends to expand access to

1 information for Washington residents through the creation of a new  
2 program designed to expand the capability of Washington's public  
3 libraries to access and disseminate information available through  
4 electronic technologies. The legislature further intends to phase  
5 support for the program over several biennia.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 27.04 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 The Washington libraries for the 21st century program is  
9 established. The purposes of the program shall include, but need not  
10 be limited to:

11 (1) Creating access for all Washington residents to information  
12 available through electronic technologies. This access will allow all  
13 citizens to electronically connect from their homes, work, community  
14 location, or nearest library by dedicated, dial-up, or network line as  
15 a "local" call regardless of their location or the source of  
16 information. The medium of the connection may differ, be it an analog  
17 voice line, a digital leased line, an internet connection, or an in-  
18 home cable connection;

19 (2) Providing for the public library's role in this access which  
20 will be to ensure the network link to the electronic resources by  
21 establishing the on and off ramps to the information highway, such as  
22 internet or its replacement. The public library therefore must supply  
23 the network infrastructure of either a wide area or local area network  
24 that can support both local and remote connections and routing  
25 capabilities for incoming and outgoing traffic to other networks;

26 (3) Through library staff, assisting the public with access to  
27 these networks and education about how to use these systems;

28 (4) Through a competitive process, providing grants to public  
29 libraries for equipment, software, licenses, telecommunications, and  
30 other expenditures to develop the public's access to information that  
31 is available through electronic technologies; and

32 (5) Encouraging public libraries, through such grants, to form  
33 partnerships especially with other libraries that can offer access to  
34 the general public and coordinate public and private efforts to give  
35 the public access to this technology.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 27.04 RCW  
37 to read as follows:

1 The Washington state library commission shall establish the  
2 libraries for the 21st century committee to:

3 (1) Guide the Washington state library in the development of  
4 program priorities and criteria for the screening and selection of  
5 grant fund recipients;

6 (2) Develop strategies for the use of program funds to best benefit  
7 library users;

8 (3) Send an annual budget to the commission for expenditure of  
9 funds from this program including program administration; and

10 (4) Monitor program results and send an annual report to  
11 appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the house of  
12 representatives and the senate.

13 The membership of the committee shall include, but need not be  
14 limited to, representatives from: Libraries in rural and urban areas  
15 and the Washington state department of information services.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 27.04 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18 The libraries for the 21st century program shall be administered by  
19 the Washington state library, in cooperation with the Washington state  
20 department of information services and local libraries. In  
21 administering the program, the powers and duties of the committee shall  
22 include, but need not be limited to:

23 (1) Adopting necessary rules and guidelines;

24 (2) Publicizing the program;

25 (3) Selecting libraries to receive grants, with the assistance of  
26 a screening committee comprised of persons knowledgeable about  
27 libraries and electronic technologies;

28 (4) Disbursing and monitoring the expenditure of grant funds;

29 (5) Evaluating program results; and

30 (6) Ensuring that administrative overhead not exceed ten percent of  
31 the entire budget for grants.

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