

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. ESSB 5348

Reorganizing the State Library Commission.

Brief Title

Hearing Date 3/24/99

Senator Gardner Horn and Panel

Sponsor(s)

Staff Steve Lundin

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

The State Library has a number of duties, including providing for any other information services members of the Legislature, state officials, and state employees in connection with the official duties; (2) acquiring materials pertinent to the history of the state; (3) serving as a depository for newspapers published in the state; (4) promoting electronic access to public information services; (5) providing advisory services to state agencies on information needs; (6) providing any information services to persons throughout the state who are blind, physically handicapped, or assistive technology users; (7) assisting in the establishment of library services; (8) acting as an interlibrary agent for libraries in the state; and (9) assisting in the provision of direct library information services to individuals.

The State Library Commission is created and consists of five members that include the Superintendent of Public Instruction, who is the chair of the commission, and four commissioners appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a library trustee. One of whom is a certified librarian engaged in library work when appointed. Commissioners are appointed for four-year terms of office. The State Library Commission is given general powers, proposes the state library budget, and establishes and examines persons seeking to become certified librarians.

SUMMARY:

Statutes relating to the State Library and State Library Commission are revised and reorganized.

It is clarified that the State Library Commission is the governing body of the State Library. The commission elects a chair from its membership.

Membership on the State Library Commission is altered to no longer include the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Governor appoints five commissioners, with added requirements for persons who are appointed beyond the existing requirements that one commissioner must be a certified librarian actively engaged in library work when appointed and another commissioner must be a library trustee appointed.

The appointed commissioner replacing the superintendent of public instruction must be an educator with knowledge of library and information technology. One commissioner must be a representative of the executive branch of state government. One commissioner must be a member of the general public.

Provision is made for the staggered five-year terms of office of the board members. Full terms are five years.

The duties of the State Library Commission are revised. The commission must monitor agency progress toward its goals and objectives, develop information and library services, and establish inter-agency related standards for common format and agency indexes for state-agency produced information. A number of the specific responsibilities of the commission are deleted and the commission authorized to delegate responsibilities to a state librarian.

Testing and certification requirements are moved from the direct responsibilities of the State Library Commission and placed in a new section of law.

The express responsibilities of the state librarian are revised. The state librarian is responsible for a variety of administrative duties, including implementation of grants and delegating or providing services. Services may be provided in lieu of monetary reimbursement agreements with other State Library authorized large lending agencies. The state librarian has charge of the State Library for similar services. The responsibility for providing library information services to individuals is eliminated.

The authority to provide to local libraries for children- and young-adult programs is eliminated.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill passed.