

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5824

Chapter 266, Laws of 2024

68th Legislature
2024 Regular Session

DISSOLUTION OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY DISTRICTS—PROCESS

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 6, 2024

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2024
Yeas 44 Nays 5

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Passed by the House February 28, 2024
Yeas 90 Nays 5

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Approved March 26, 2024 9:33 AM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5824** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

Secretary

FILED

March 27, 2024

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5824

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2024 Regular Session

State of Washington **68th Legislature** **2024 Regular Session**

By Senators Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Lias, and Nobles; by request of Secretary of State

Prefiled 12/11/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the dissolution of libraries and library
2 districts; and amending RCW 27.12.320.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 27.12.320 and 1982 c 123 s 12 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A library established or maintained under this chapter
7 (~~((except a regional or a rural county library district library, an~~
8 ~~intercounty rural library district library, or an island library~~
9 ~~district library))) may be abolished (~~(only in pursuance of a vote of~~
10 ~~the electors of the governmental unit in which the library is~~
11 ~~located, taken in the manner prescribed in RCW 27.12.030 for a vote~~
12 ~~upon the establishment of a library)) upon the petition process found
13 in subsection (3) of this section.~~~~

14 (2) If a library of a city or town (~~(be))~~ is abolished, the books
15 and other printed or written matter belonging to it shall go to the
16 library of the county whereof the municipality is a part, if there be
17 a county library, but if not, then to the state library. If a library
18 of a county or region (~~(be))~~ is abolished, the books and other
19 printed matter belonging to it shall go to the state library. All
20 other library property shall be disposed of as the legislative body
21 of the governmental unit shall direct.

1 (3) After a (~~rural county library district, an island library~~
2 ~~district, or an intercounty rural~~) library district established or
3 maintained under this chapter has been in operation for three or more
4 years, it may be dissolved pursuant to a majority vote of all of the
5 qualified electors (~~residing outside of incorporated cities and~~
6 ~~towns~~) of the district voting upon a proposition for its
7 dissolution, at a general election, which proposition may be placed
8 upon the ballot at any such election whenever a petition by (~~ten~~)
9 25 percent or more qualified voters residing (~~outside of~~
10 ~~incorporated cities or towns~~) within a rural county library
11 district, an island library district, or an intercounty rural library
12 district requesting such dissolution shall be filed with the board of
13 trustees of such district not less than ninety days prior to the
14 holding of any such election. An island library district may also be
15 dissolved pursuant to RCW 27.12.450.

16 (4) If a rural county library district is dissolved, the books
17 and other printed matter belonging to it shall go to the state
18 library. All other library property shall be disposed of as the
19 legislative body of the governmental unit shall direct. When an
20 intercounty rural library district is dissolved, the books, funds and
21 other property thereof shall be divided among the participating
22 counties in the most equitable manner possible as determined by the
23 state librarian, who shall give consideration to such items as the
24 original source of property, the amount of funds raised from each
25 county by the district, and the ability of the counties to make
26 further use of such property or equipment for library purposes.
27 Printed material which the state librarian finds will not be used by
28 any of the participating counties for further library purposes shall
29 be turned over to the state library.

30 (5) When an island library district is dissolved pursuant to this
31 section, the books and other printed matter belonging to it shall go
32 to the state library. All other library property shall be disposed of
33 as the legislative body of the governmental unit shall direct. When
34 an island library district is dissolved due to the establishment of a
35 county library district, pursuant to RCW 27.12.450, all property,
36 assets, and liabilities of the preexisting island library district
37 within the area included in the county rural library district shall
38 pass to and be assumed by the county rural library district:
39 PROVIDED, That where within any county rural library district
40 heretofore or hereafter organized under the provisions of this

1 chapter a preexisting island library district has incurred a bonded
2 indebtedness which was outstanding at the time of the formation of
3 the county rural library district, the preexisting island library
4 district shall retain its corporate existence insofar as is necessary
5 for the purpose until the bonded indebtedness outstanding against it
6 on and after the effective date of the formation has been paid in
7 full: PROVIDED FURTHER, That a special election may be called by the
8 board of trustees of the county rural library district, to be held at
9 the next general or special election held in the respective counties,
10 for the purpose of affording the voters residing within the area
11 outside of the preexisting island library district an opportunity to
12 assume the obligation of the bonded indebtedness of the preexisting
13 island library district or the question may be submitted to the
14 voters as a separate proposition at the election on the proposal for
15 the formation of the county rural library district.

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2024.

Passed by the House February 28, 2024.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 2024.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 27, 2024.

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