

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## ESB 5824

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning the dissolution of libraries and library districts.

**Sponsors:** Senators Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Lias and Nobles; by request of Secretary of State.

**Senate Committee on State Government & Elections**  
**House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations**

**Background:** Library Dissolution. Under current law, public libraries, excluding regional, rural, intercounty, or island library district libraries, may be abolished in the same manner they were established: either by the legislative body of its own initiative, or upon the petition of 100 taxpayers from the district whereby the question is submitted to a vote and the library is established or dissolved upon a majority vote.

Library District Dissolution. After a library district has been in operation for three or more years it may be dissolved by a vote of all qualified electors residing outside of incorporated cities and towns. A proposition for dissolution is placed on the ballot if a petition by 10 percent or more of the qualified electors within the district is filed with the district board of trustees no less than 90 days prior to an election. Island library districts must also be dissolved if a rural county library district serving all areas of the county, outside of incorporated cities and towns, is established.

**Summary:** Library Dissolution. Libraries may be dissolved through a petition process whereby a petition must receive support from 25 percent or more of the eligible voters residing within the library district, and be filed with the board of trustees of the district no later than 90 days prior to the general election. If these steps are completed, the question of dissolution will be placed on the general election ballot, and if the proposition receives a majority vote in favor of dissolution, the library is dissolved. All qualified electors of the district are eligible to vote on the question of dissolution.

Library District Dissolution. After a library district has been in operation for three or more years, it may be dissolved by a vote of all qualified electors. A petition for dissolution by 25

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percent or more qualified voters residing in the library district must be filed with the board of trustees no later than 90 days prior to the general election. If this is achieved, the question of dissolution will be placed on the general election ballot and if the proposition receives a majority vote in favor of dissolution, the library district is dissolved.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	49	0	
House	90	5	(House amended)
Senate	44	5	(Senate concurred)

**Effective:** June 6, 2024