
SENATE BILL 5824

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))~~) either (a) by its legislative
13 body of its own initiative; or (b) upon the petition process found in
14 subsection (3) of this section.

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

1 other library property shall be disposed of as the legislative body
2 of the governmental unit shall direct.

3 (3) After a (~~rural county library district, an island library~~
4 ~~district, or an intercounty rural~~) library district established or
5 maintained under this chapter has been in operation for three or more
6 years, it may be dissolved pursuant to a majority vote of all of the
7 qualified electors (~~residing outside of incorporated cities and~~
8 ~~towns~~) of the district voting upon a proposition for its
9 dissolution, at a general election, which proposition may be placed
10 upon the ballot at any such election whenever a petition by (~~ten~~)
11 35 percent or more qualified voters residing (~~outside of~~
12 ~~incorporated cities or towns~~) within a rural county library
13 district, an island library district, or an intercounty rural library
14 district requesting such dissolution shall be filed with the board of
15 trustees of such district not less than ninety days prior to the
16 holding of any such election. An island library district may also be
17 dissolved pursuant to RCW 27.12.450.

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

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

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

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