
HOUSE BILL 2777

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Jacobsen, Moak, Edmondson, Anderson, Pruitt,
Finkbeiner, Johanson and Cothern

Read first time 01/24/94. Referred to Committee on State Government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (1) Creating access for all Washington residents to information
11 available through electronic technologies;

12 (2) Through a competitive process, providing matching grants to
13 local public libraries or libraries at institutions of higher education
14 for equipment, software, licenses, telecommunications, and other
15 expenditures designed to permit access to information available through
16 electronic technologies;

17 (3) Providing funding to partially match money raised through other
18 public and private sources for accessing information through electronic
19 technologies; and

20 (4) Encouraging libraries to form partnerships for providing
21 information services.

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

24 The Washington state library commission shall establish the
25 libraries for the 21st century advisory committee to:

26 (1) Assist the agency in the development of program priorities and
27 criteria for the screening and selection of grant fund recipients;

28 (2) Plan and recommend strategies for use of program funds, to best
29 benefit library users; and

30 (3) Send an annual recommended budget to the commission for
31 expenditure of funds from this program including program
32 administration; and

33 (4) Monitor program results and send an annual report to
34 appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the house of
35 representatives and the senate.

36 The membership of the advisory committee shall include, but need
37 not be limited to representatives from: Libraries in rural and urban

1 areas, libraries at institutions of higher education, businesses using
2 or marketing information through electronic technologies, and the
3 department of information services.

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

6 The Washington libraries for the 21st century program shall be
7 administered by the state library, in cooperation with the department
8 of information services, local libraries, and libraries of institutions
9 of higher education. In administering the program, the powers and
10 duties of the agency shall include, but need not be limited to:

11 (1) Adopting necessary rules and guidelines;

12 (2) Publicizing the program;

13 (3) Selecting libraries to receive grants, with the assistance of
14 a screening committee comprised of persons knowledgeable about
15 libraries and electronic technologies. The state library may receive
16 funding from this program, as recommended by the libraries for the 21st
17 century advisory committee and the Washington state library commission,
18 to provide services and to administer the program;

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

20 (5) Evaluating program results.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of six million dollars, or as much
22 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending
23 June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the state library for the
24 purposes of this act, subject to any across-the-board cuts in state
25 funds that may occur.

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