

By the Council for Smarter Government and Representatives  
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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to public libraries; amending  
 3           s. 257.17, F.S.; authorizing municipalities to  
 4           receive operating grants; establishing minimum  
 5           standards for receipt of funds; removing  
 6           minimum population requirement for  
 7           municipalities to be eligible to receive funds;  
 8           amending s. 257.191, F.S.; revising provisions  
 9           relating to construction grants; amending s.  
 10          257.22, F.S.; permitting eligible political  
 11          subdivisions to receive warrants; amending s.  
 12          257.23, F.S.; requiring certification of annual  
 13          tax income by a specified date; clarifying  
 14          authority with regard to applications for  
 15          grants; repealing s. 257.19, F.S., relating to  
 16          library construction grants; providing an  
 17          effective date.

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 19           WHEREAS, in enacting revisions to the State Aid to  
 20   Libraries program, the Legislature recognizes that the  
 21   original intent of aiding and encouraging the establishment of  
 22   free library service throughout the state by offering grants  
 23   to individual counties is succeeding because all counties in  
 24   this state are currently participating in the program, and

25           WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that providing  
 26   state aid to independent municipal libraries while supporting  
 27   political subdivisions that are currently participating in the  
 28   State Aid to Libraries program is a valuable contribution to  
 29   the extension of the state's public library development plan,  
 30   and

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1           WHEREAS, the Legislature further recognizes the need  
2 for state aid in order to equalize the level of service that  
3 public libraries in various communities throughout the state  
4 are able to provide, to promote free library service that  
5 benefits all residents of the state, and to promote  
6 coordination among public libraries in order to improve the  
7 delivery of library services, NOW, THEREFORE,

8  
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11           Section 1. Section 257.17, Florida Statutes, is  
12 amended to read:

13           257.17 Operating grants.--A political subdivision that  
14 has been designated by a county or municipality as the single  
15 library administrative unit is eligible to receive from the  
16 state an annual operating grant of not more than 25 percent of  
17 all local funds expended by that political subdivision during  
18 the second preceding fiscal year for the operation and  
19 maintenance of a library, under the following conditions:

20           (1) Eligible political subdivisions include:

21           (a) A county that establishes or maintains a library  
22 or that gives or receives free library service by contract  
23 with a municipality or nonprofit library corporation or  
24 association within such county;

25           (b) A county that joins with one or more counties to  
26 establish or maintain a library or contracts with another  
27 county, a special district, a special tax district, or one or  
28 more municipalities in another county to receive free library  
29 service;

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1 (c) A special district or special tax district that  
2 establishes or maintains a library and provides free library  
3 service; or

4 (d) A municipality ~~with a population of 200,000 or~~  
5 ~~more~~ that establishes or maintains a library or that ~~and~~ gives  
6 or receives free library service by contract with a nonprofit  
7 library corporation or association within the municipality.

8 (2) The library established or maintained by such  
9 political subdivision shall:

10 (a) Be operated under a single administrative head who  
11 is an employee of the single library administrative unit and  
12 who has completed a library education program accredited by  
13 the American Library Association. The single administrative  
14 head shall have at least 2 years of full-time paid  
15 professional experience, after completing the library  
16 education program, in a public library that is open to the  
17 public for a minimum of 40 hours per week.~~and~~

18 (b) Expend its funds centrally.~~†~~

19 (b) ~~Have an operating budget of at least \$20,000 per~~  
20 ~~year from local sources; and~~

21 (c) Give the same free library service provided to its  
22 own all residents to residents of all political subdivisions  
23 within the county that receive operating grants from the state  
24 ~~of the county or residents of the special district or special~~  
25 ~~tax district.~~

26 (d) Have at least one library or branch library open  
27 for 40 or more hours per week.

28 (e) Have a long-range plan, an annual plan of service,  
29 and an annual budget.

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1        (f) Engage in joint planning for coordination of  
2 library services within the county or counties that receive  
3 operating grants from the state.

4            (3) Any political subdivision establishing public  
5 library service for the first time shall submit a certified  
6 copy of its appropriation for library service, and its  
7 eligibility to receive an operating grant shall be based upon  
8 such appropriation.

9            ~~(4)(a) A municipality with a population of 200,000 or~~  
10 ~~more that establishes or maintains a library is eligible to~~  
11 ~~receive from the state an annual operating grant of not more~~  
12 ~~than 25 percent of all local funds expended by that~~  
13 ~~municipality during the second preceding fiscal year for the~~  
14 ~~operation and maintenance of a library, under the following~~  
15 ~~conditions:~~

16            ~~1. The municipal library is operated under a single~~  
17 ~~administrative head and expends its funds centrally;~~

18            ~~2. The municipal library has an operating budget of at~~  
19 ~~least \$20,000 per year from local sources; and~~

20            ~~3. The municipal library provides free library service~~  
21 ~~to all residents of the municipality.~~

22            ~~(b) This subsection is repealed on July 1, 2002.~~

23            Section 2. Section 257.191, Florida Statutes, is  
24 amended to read:

25            257.191 Construction grants.--The Division of Library  
26 and Information Services may accept and administer library  
27 construction moneys appropriated to it and shall allocate such  
28 appropriation to municipal, county, and regional libraries in  
29 the form of library construction grants on a matching basis.  
30 The local matching portion shall be no less than the grant  
31 amount, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the maximum grant

1 amount, unless the matching requirement is waived by s.  
2 288.06561 50 percent. Initiation of a library construction  
3 project 12 months or less prior to the grant award under this  
4 section shall not affect the eligibility of an applicant to  
5 receive a library construction grant.The division shall adopt  
6 rules for the administration of library construction grants.  
7 For the purposes of this section, s. 257.21 does not apply.

8 Section 3. Section 257.22, Florida Statutes, is  
9 amended to read:

10 257.22 Division of Library and Information Services;  
11 allocation of funds.--Any moneys that may be appropriated for  
12 use by a county, a municipality, a special district, or a  
13 special tax district for the maintenance of a library or  
14 library service shall be administered and allocated by the  
15 Division of Library and Information Services in the manner  
16 prescribed by law. On or before December 1 of each year, the  
17 division shall certify to the Comptroller the amount to be  
18 paid to each county, municipality, special district, or  
19 special tax district, and the Comptroller shall issue warrants  
20 to the eligible political subdivisions ~~respective boards of~~  
21 ~~county commissioners or chief municipal executive authorities~~  
22 ~~for the amount so allocated.~~

23 Section 4. Section 257.23, Florida Statutes, is  
24 amended to read:

25 257.23 Application for grant.--

26 ~~(1)~~ The board of county commissioners of any county,  
27 the chief executive officer of a municipality, or the  
28 governing body of a special district or a special tax district  
29 desiring to receive a grant under the provisions of ss.  
30 257.14-257.25 shall apply therefor to the Division of Library  
31 and Information Services on or before October 1 of each year

1 on a form to be provided by the division. ~~In~~ The application,  
2 ~~which~~ shall be signed by the chair of the board of county  
3 commissioners and attested by the clerk of the circuit court  
4 or the appropriate officer in a charter county, by the chief  
5 executive officer of a municipality and attested by the clerk  
6 of the municipality, or by the chair of the governing body and  
7 attested by the chief financial officer of a special district  
8 or a special tax district. The county, municipality, special  
9 district, or special tax district ~~the board of county~~  
10 ~~commissioners~~ shall agree to observe the standards established  
11 by the division as authorized in s. 257.15. On or before  
12 December 1 each year, the applicant shall certify the annual  
13 tax income and the rate of tax or the annual appropriation for  
14 the free library or free library service, and shall furnish  
15 such other pertinent information as the division may require.

16 ~~(2) The chief municipal executive authority of any~~  
17 ~~municipality desiring to receive a grant under the provisions~~  
18 ~~of ss. 257.14-257.25 shall apply therefor to the Division of~~  
19 ~~Library and Information Services on or before October 1 of~~  
20 ~~each year on a form to be provided by the division. In the~~  
21 ~~application, which shall be signed by the chief municipal~~  
22 ~~executive officer and attested by the clerk of the circuit~~  
23 ~~court, the chief municipal executive authority shall agree to~~  
24 ~~observe the standards established by the division as~~  
25 ~~authorized in s. 257.15, shall certify the annual tax income~~  
26 ~~and the rate of tax or the annual appropriation for the free~~  
27 ~~library, and shall furnish such other pertinent information as~~  
28 ~~the division may require.~~

29 Section 5. Section 257.19, Florida Statutes, is  
30 repealed.

31 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.