

2013 -- S 0395

LC01610

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

A N A C T

RELATING TO LIBRARIES

Introduced By: Senator Donna M. Nesselbush

Date Introduced: February 26, 2013

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 29-6-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 29-6 entitled "State Aid to Libraries" is hereby amended to read as follows:

**29-6-2. Public library services.** -- (a) For each city or town, the state's share to support local public library services shall be equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of both the amount appropriated and expended in the second preceding fiscal year by the city or town from local tax revenues and funds from the public library's private endowment that supplement the municipal appropriation; provided, however, the state in any year shall not be obligated to match any amount from the endowment that exceeds six percent (6%) of the three (3) year average market value, calculated at the end of the calendar year, of the investments in the endowment. The amount of the grant payable to each municipality in any year in accordance with this section shall be reduced proportionately in the event that the total of those grants in any year exceeds the amount appropriated that year for the purposes of this section. ~~Provided further, however, that the reference year for the state's share of support to be paid in the year ending June 30, 2008 shall be the third preceding year.~~ Provided, however, for the year ending June 30, 2015, the state's share of support shall be equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of both the amount appropriated and expended in the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) preceding fiscal year by the city or town from local tax revenues and twelve and one half percent (12.5%) of the funds from the public library's private endowment that supplement the municipal appropriation; and, provided, further, however, for the years ending June 30, 2016 and thereafter, the state's share of support shall be equal to at least twenty-

1 five percent (25%) of the amount appropriated and expended in the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) preceding fiscal  
2 year by the city or town from local tax revenues.

3 (b) Those public libraries that do not qualify for aid pursuant to the provisions of  
4 subsection (a) of this section may apply for resource sharing grants, to be used exclusively for the  
5 purpose of payment of the ocean state libraries (OSL) annual assessment charges. Eligible public  
6 libraries shall apply directly to the office of library and information services for these resource  
7 sharing grants, and the grants shall be awarded to the libraries individually, rather than to the city  
8 or town. Eligible libraries must be or become members of the OSL upon receipt of the grant,  
9 serve municipalities that meet minimum standards for Rhode Island public libraries, and meet  
10 standards for member libraries of the library of Rhode Island (LORI) network.

11 (c) Provided, that notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter to the contrary,  
12 the state's share to support local public library services shall also include funding to the Pontiac  
13 Free Library in the city of Warwick for said library's participation in the ocean state libraries  
14 (OSL). Such funding shall be provided regardless of whether the city of Warwick appropriates  
15 funds from local tax revenues to said library. The amount of said state support shall be equal to  
16 the average of the amount appropriated by the city of Warwick to each library in said  
17 municipality for participation in the OSL program, in accordance with the provisions of and  
18 formulas set forth in subsection (a) herein. Provided, further, that in the event the city of Warwick  
19 appropriates funds from local tax revenues for the Pontiac Free Library, then the amount of the  
20 state's share to said library shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a)  
21 herein for any year in which such calculation is applicable.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO LIBRARIES

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- 1           This act would increase the state's contribution of matching funds to public library  
2   support based upon library endowment funds expended from six percent (6%) to twelve and one  
3   half percent (12.5%) commencing in 2015.  
4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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