

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 337

An act relating to public libraries; amending s. 257.17, F.S.; extending the repeal date of a provision authorizing operating grants; requiring the Division of Library and Information Services to facilitate the extension of free library services through interlocal agreement; requiring reports; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 257.17, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

1. The municipal library is operated under a single administrative head and expends its funds centrally;
2. The municipal library has an operating budget of at least \$20,000 per year from local sources; and
3. The municipal library provides free library service to all residents of the municipality.

(b) This subsection is repealed on July 1, 2002 ~~2001~~.

Section 2. (1) The Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State shall encourage and facilitate the exploration of the feasibility of forming public library cooperatives by municipalities and county-designated single administrative units through interlocal agreement in order to extend library service to residents of both legal service areas. A municipality and county-designated single administrative unit that explores the feasibility of extending library service to residents of both service areas shall submit recommendations on the progress made toward forming a cooperative to the Division of Library and Information Services by December 1, 2001. By January 2, 2002, the division shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which shall include a status report on the progress of extending library services by these entities and shall make recommendations for any changes in law or funding as a result of the report. The report shall also include a

review of the State Aid to Libraries program to determine what revisions, if any, need to be made to that program to encourage and improve the delivery of free library service to all residents of the state. Finally, the report shall provide recommendations for statutory and funding changes based upon the review.

(2) This section expires July 1, 2002.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Became a law without the Governor's approval June 17, 2001.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 15, 2001.