

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

Date: February 6, 2015

Re: Legislative update

Included with this memo is a handout that the State Library presented to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee for Education. It outlines the budget motions the State Library requested to fund our budget for fiscal years 16 and 17 and is a useful guide to help monitor the progress of our budget as it moves through the session.

In mid-January the State Library became aware of LC 2289, Generally Revise Library Laws, sponsored by Sen. Dee Brown. This bill draft request is currently on hold and no language has been drafted. Because the draft request likely pertains to Library District Law, I shared information with Sen. Brown about the recommendations of the [Library District Task Force](#) and their recommendations that you endorsed last year.

The State Library and the Montana Library Association are proponents of House Bill 14 which is a bill from the Governor's Office and is sponsored by Representative Kelly McCarthy of Billings. If passed, the legislation will create, through bonding, a \$15M grant program within the Department of Commerce to fund the deployment of broadband around the state. Grant recipients would include political subdivisions, tribal governments and certified regional development corporations.

The State Library has served as an information witness for the following bills:

- House Bill 123, Generally revise public records laws.
 - This bill would alter a reference contained in 22-1-211, Montana Code Annotated, "Definitions," but it does not change the substance of our statute.
- House Bill 331, a bill that would require the state to remove the name "half-breed" or "breed" from any place name.

- If passed, this bill will create a modest amount of additional work for MSL staff member, Gerry Daumiller, the State Geographic Names Coordinator, to submit newly proposed names to the federal board of Geographic Names.
- House Joint Resolution No. 7, a resolution requesting an interim study of Next-Generation 9-1-1.
 - Next-Generation 9-1-1 systems are Internet Protocol based systems, rather than plain old telephone service systems and are built on geographic information systems (GIS). As such, the systems allow for more accurate call routing based on a callers determined location. The nature of these systems requires well-integrated, standardized GIS data, as is managed by MSL in partnership with local governments.

Other bills of interest include:

- House Bill 10, a funding bill for major state IT expenditures;
- House Bill 13, the state pay plan bill;
 - The currently negotiated plan would include (1) \$.50/hour salary increase each year of the biennium, both increases effective the first pay period in October and (2) increase the state share toward the group benefits plan 10% the first year of the biennium and 8% the second year of the biennium.
- House Bill 155, Develop a digital archives plan;
 - This bill provides funding to the Montana Historical Society to contract for the creation of a plan to implement a digital archives program at the Historical Society.
- House Bill 231, Revise Information Technology Laws;
- House Bill 368, Sunset voter approved property tax levies after certain period of time
 - This bill would require an automatic sunset on all new, voter approved levies after six years. Although the bill would not impact existing library districts and operational levies, it could be detrimental to future library funding. MLA and MACo oppose this bill.
- Senate Bill 220, Repeal the electronic government advisory board and transfer duties.
 - The State Library has a seat on both the electronic government advisory board and the Information Technology Board that would take over the responsibilities of the board if eliminated.
- The Governor's Early Edge Initiative is contained within the proposed budget of the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). Executive Action on the OPI budget is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 13.

We also continue to monitor several bill drafts that have not yet been introduced and for which no information is currently available including:

- LC 543, Interim Study regarding coal phase-out;
- LC 1285, Revise coal taxation laws;
- LC 1656, Generally revise coal tax fund expenditure laws;
- LC 1657, Allocate a portion of coal tax funds to the general fund;

- LC 1928, Revise coal trust allocations to local governments; and
- LC 2348, Generally revise coal severance tax laws.

For more information or to track bills of interest visit:

[http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/LAW0217W\\$BAIV.return_all_bills?P_SESS=20151](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/LAW0217W$BAIV.return_all_bills?P_SESS=20151).