

# Memo

To: MSL Commission  
From: Karen Strege  
Date: 12/19/2007  
Re: New Legislative Proposals

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Because of my emergency leave, the Governor's Office extended the deadline for MSL's legislative proposal until April 30. Here are our proposals for you to consider and prioritize:

**Short Title: State Publications Center**

Purpose: To update State Publication Center statutes to ensure the access to and permanent preservation of digital state publications. To clarify the roles of the Center and to address minor concerns of the State Library's recent legislative audit.

Background: A committee composed of representatives from ITSD, the judicial and legislative branches, the State Library, the Historical Society, and the Secretary of State's office met to discuss the problems with capturing, making accessible, and preserving state documents and publications. The committee drafted legislation to strengthen and modernize the language in the State Publication Center's statutes.

Fiscal Impact by Fund Type: No fiscal impact is predicted.

Housekeeping Only. Audit Recommendation. Legislation would affect other state agencies.

**Short Title: Library Federation Updates**

Purpose: To update current statutes governing Library Federations to change the manner in which federations are established and governed.

Background: The role of a federation headquarter's library has changed from that of providing members access to its collections and professional services to that of coordinating continuing education and joint purchases. These changes in role make the current statutes in need of an overhaul.

Current statutes require that the Board of Trustees of a federation's headquarter library contract with individual federation members to establish a federation. After establishment, the director of that headquarters library is the federation's coordinator. The proposed legislation eliminates the requirement for a headquarters library and for contracts between the board and federation members. The bylaws adopted by federation members would govern coordinator selection and membership requirements.

The six Federation coordinators, staff of the State Library, members of the State Library Commission, six federation members, and three public library trustees formed an ad hoc committee to look into the current structure of federations and voted to make these changes.

Fiscal Impact by Fund Type: No fiscal impact is predicted.

**Short Title: Public Library Districts**

Purpose: To clarify the establishment of public library districts.

Background: County and city attorneys, librarians, and public library trustees who have explored the establishment of a public library district under MCA 22-1-701 have found that current statutes are not clear and that the timeframes outlined in the statutes are difficult to achieve.

Fiscal Impact by Fund Type: No fiscal impact is predicted.