

Memo

To: Fulfillment Task Force Members
From: Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian
Date: July 8, 2008
Re: Legislation timeline

Below is my best estimate of the timeline for the draft legislation as it heads through the process to become statute:

July 16, 2008 – Fulfillment Task Force makes final recommendations on draft legislation concepts, not necessarily final edit.

July 31, 2008 – We should hear from the Governor's office by the end of July if we have his approval to move forward on the legislation.

August 13, 2008 – Montana State Library Commission will review draft legislation and make a final decision to move forward with the draft legislation concepts, not necessarily final edits.

September 4 or 5, 2008 – State Librarian will present draft legislation concept to the Legislative Interim Committee on Education and Local Government.

September 15, 2008 - Draft legislation proposal will be submitted for official drafting process with the Legislative Services Division; a bill drafter will be assigned and an official bill draft will be provided as time allows. Representative Jon Sesso has once again agreed to carry this legislation for us if we would like him to do so. Because I worked with a Legislative Services Division bill drafter already for help in revising this bill from last session, the official bill draft should go smoothly, but not necessarily any faster.

Throughout the months of September, October, November and December - We (Fulfillment Task Force members, State Library staff and State Library Commission members) will need to meet with members of the library community throughout the state so that we have their understanding and support of the legislation as it moves through the legislature.

We will have in-person group communication opportunities to share the information at the following events:

September 11, 2008 – Golden Plains Federation meeting, Wolf Point, MT

September 19-20, 2008 – Fall Workshop, Livingston, Mt

October 2, 2008 – Pathfinder Federation meeting, Fort Benton, Mt

October 4, 2008 – South Central Federation meeting, Billings, Mt

October 10, 2008 – Tamarack Federation meeting, Plains, Mt

October 12-13, 2008 – Montana Library Association's combined Academic and Special Library Division and Public Library Division Retreat, Chico Hot Springs

October 14 -16, 2008 – Commission library visits and meeting. Meeting in Malta, Mt

October 16-17 – MEA-MFT Educators' Conference, Missoula

October 24-25, 2008 – Sagebrush Federation meeting and retreat, Lame Deer, Mt

December 10, 2008 - Commission meeting, Helena Mt

Additionally, we may need to schedule some town meetings across the state if we determine that additional conversations regarding the legislation are necessary. Montana's library community is known as a strong advocacy group by the Legislature because we have always come to this body with grassroots, consistent support on sound library issues. We need to continue that tradition.

Once January rolls around the legislation will be introduced and a hearing date will be set. Testimony will need to be prepared and provided by the State Librarian, MLA Lobbyist, and three or four librarians, trustees or library users across the state. This testimony will be provided at the hearing.