

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

## Bil Analysis

Bil No. HB 1234

### Reorganizing the state library commission

Brief title

Hearing Date: 1/29/99

Reps.

Sponsor(s)

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State Government Committee

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### BACKGROUND:

The state library established as a state agency and mandated to have facilities on the state capitol campus grounds.

Among the responsibilities of the state library are: (1) provide library and other information services to members of the legislature, state officials, and state employees; (2) connect with the public; (3) acquire materials important to the history of the state; (4) serve as a depository for newspapers published in the state; (5) promote and facilitate access to public information and services; (6) provide advisory services to state agencies on information needs; (7) provide library information services to persons throughout the state who are blind, physically handicapped, or assistive technology users; (8) assist in the development of library services; (9) act as an interlibrary network for libraries in the state; and (10) assist in providing library information and services to individuals.

The state library commission created consists of five members that include the superintendent of public instruction, who is the chair of the commission, and four commissioners appointed by the governor, one of whom is a library trustee, and one of whom is a certified academic library professional. The state library commission is appointed for four-year terms. The state library commission sets general policies, prepares the state library budget, and establishes and examines persons seeking to become certified librarians.

**SUMMARY :**

Statutes relating to the state library and state library commission are revised and reorganized.

It is clarified that the state library commission is the governing body of the state library.

Members of the state library commission are altered to no longer include the superintendent of public instruction. The governor appoints five commissioners with added requirements for persons who are appointed, and the existing requirement that one commissioner must be a certified librarian is removed. One commissioner must be a certified librarian who is actively engaged in library work when appointed and another commissioner must be a library trustee appointed. The appointed commissioner replacing the superintendent of public instruction must be an educator with knowledge of library and information technology. One commissioner must be a representative of either the executive or legislative branches of state government. One commissioner must be a member of the general public.

Provisions are made for the staggered five-year terms of office of the board members. Full terms are five years. A commissioner may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The governor may remove a commissioner for cause.

The duties of the state library commission are revised. The commission must monitor agency progress toward its goals and objectives, develop information services and library services, and establish inter-agency standards for common format and agency indexes for state-agency produced information. A number of the specific responsibilities of the commission are deleted and the commission authorized to delegate responsibilities to a librarian.

Testing and certification requirements are moved from the duties of responsibilities of the state library commission and placed in a new section of law.

The express responsibilities of the state librarian are revised. The state librarian is responsible to implement policies and delegate authority to acquire library materials, employ and terminate personnel in accordance with civil service laws, enter into agreements with public and private entities to implement the mission and objectives of the state library and provide information through electronic means to assist agencies in making the information readily available to the public. Services to be provided include monetary reimbursement under agreements with other state libraries authorized to charge and if not so other libraries charge the state library for similar services. The responsibility is to assist in providing library and information services to individuals designated.

The authority to provide grants to local libraries for children's and young adult programs is eliminated. The requirement that reimbursement to state library employees for costs of being in contact with offenders is eliminated. The authority to provide grants to state institutions is eliminated.

**FISCAL NOTE :** Not requested.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** ~~Ninety days after adjournment of session which bill passed.~~