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HOUSE BILL 2253

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Fromhold, Dunn, McDermott, Ericksen, Jackley, Ruderman and Linville

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to public access to information data bases; adding  
2 a new section to chapter 27.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Citizens, students, business people,  
5 professionals, and public officials depend on timely, accurate  
6 information in order to be competitive and to make informed decisions.  
7 Many Washington citizens have been at a disadvantage in accessing such  
8 information due to economic or geographic barriers.

9 Washington's libraries are demonstrated leaders in providing the  
10 public access to print and electronic information. The legislature  
11 finds the statewide data base licensing program, developed as a pilot  
12 project in 1998, has proven that licensing of on-line information data  
13 bases at the state level is the most cost-effective way to provide  
14 equitable, quality information resources to all citizens and that joint  
15 state and local participation in obtaining cost-effective licenses  
16 increases access to this quality information.

17 The legislature also finds that access to these on-line resources  
18 should be available to every citizen, every school, and every area in  
19 the state of Washington.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 27.04 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) There is created a statewide data base licensing service to  
4 secure cost-effective access to commercially produced information data  
5 base products. The information data bases shall be made available to  
6 citizens of Washington through all types of public, school, academic,  
7 and other nonprofit libraries in the state. The Washington state  
8 library shall administer the service either directly or through  
9 contract. Libraries shall make data bases available to their users  
10 through a variety of venues, including computers and other computing  
11 devices in schools and library buildings, and to homes.

12        (2) The statewide data base licensing service shall be funded  
13 through a combination of state general fund and local funds. It is  
14 intended that state general fund moneys will pay for data base content  
15 and local funds will pay for administrative costs of running the  
16 program. For the purpose of any general budget reduction, state  
17 general fund moneys for the service shall be considered for reduction  
18 separate and apart from general fund moneys appropriated for ongoing  
19 operations of the state library.

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