

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian,

Date: February 13, 2019

Re: Montana State Library Executive Budget and Legislative Overview

Budget:

The Joint Appropriations Education Subcommittee voted this morning to adopt all the decision packages in the Governor's Budget for the State Library. These packages include a statewide present law adjustment for personal services to help restore FTE (SWPL – 1), other fixed costs and inflationary present law adjustments (SWPL – 2 & 3), present law to account for the additional percentage of Coal Severance Tax funds authorized to the State Library by the passage of House Bill 648 in the 2017 session (PL – 5), authority adjustments to bring Montana Land Information Account and Library Services Technology Act grant budget authority in line with typical expenditures (PL – 7), and the new proposal that reduces by 1 FTE, the total number of current level FTE from 30.46 to 29.46 FTE (DP - 9).

Yesterday, the Subcommittee also voted to support a committee bill that would create a Digital Library Services Special Revenue Account. This afternoon, at the full House Appropriations Committee, the subcommittee will move this recommendation and then the bill will be assigned to a legislative bill drafter. The intent of the bill is that there be created a new account that can accept funds from a diverse portfolio of revenue options, yet to be determined. They will consider certain revenue streams this session and the bill also proposes an interim study to identify three or more additional revenue streams.

Finally, Representative Hamlett and Woods both stated, on the record, in Subcommittee this morning, that they are seeking additional ways to fully restore the State Library's budget.

Other legislation of interest:

House Bill 14: The Governor's Infrastructure proposal creates a grant program for rural local governments and broadband installation is one of eligible projects that the program could fund. This bill has had several hearings in the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning.

House Bill 150: This bill is a basic cleanup bill to further update Next Generation 911 laws. Per current law, it allows the temporary GIS account used to fund the existing GIS assessment to expire. This bill was heard by the House Energy and Telecommunications committee on February 8. After some negotiation, stakeholders decided to draft a separate bill that will include additional changes stakeholders seek including the account and possibly an option for some ongoing funding for continued GIS work to support 911. No action will be taken on HB 150 until this other bill is drafted and heard by the committee.

House Bill 175: The State Pay Plan Bill, as carried in HB 175, passed the House and was concurred by the Senate Finance and Claims committee. The bill has yet to be heard on the Senate floor. If it clears the Senate floor without amendment it will go to the Governor for his signature. The pay plan includes \$.50/hr raises for state employees in each of the next two fiscal years beginning January 1. This bill also updates per diem rates for travel.

House Bill 354: The State Library was an informational witness at a hearing before the House Education Committee where the Montana Library Association opposed HB 354, a bill that fine public libraries that possess or makes available sexually explicit materials. The Committee tabled this bill on February 8.

Senate Bill 53: This bill would also update meal reimbursement rates but, rather than mandating a dollar amount for per diem, it would tie reimbursements to the federal rates. This bill had a hearing on January 11 and the bill is awaiting committee action.

MSL will update the Commission about legislation as necessary.