



## MEMO

**To:** Montana State Library Commission  
**From:** Jennie Stapp, State Librarian, and staff  
**Subject:** Talking Books Policy Review  
**Date:** August 9th, 2023

The following policy recommendations are presented for Commission consideration. Staff will request action on these recommendations at the October Commission meeting.

[22-1-103 \(6\) Montana Code Annotated](#) authorizes the State Library Commission to provide library services for the blind and for individuals with physical disabilities. For more than fifty years, the Montana State Library has served as a regional library of the National Library Services (NLS) for the Blind and Print Disabled of the Library of Congress. In April 2022, the Commission adopted a contract for service model to provide Talking Book services to qualifying Montanans. Since July 2022, the MSL has contracted with the Utah State Library for services including Readers Advisors as well as machine and book lending. The contract meets the service requirements of the NLS. Therefore, it is no longer necessary for MSL to maintain separate lending policies outside the scope of the contract.

Staff recommends that the Commission rescind the following Montana Talking Book policies:

- [Digital Loan Policy for the Montana Talking Book Library](#)
- [Montana Talking Book Library – Loan Policy](#)
- [Montana Talking Book Library – BARD Policy](#)

Staff further asks that the Commission review the Montana Talking Books Institution Policy draft. Staff recommends this policy to ensure Montana State Library's interests are considered in institutional partnerships.