

Library Federation Law Fact Sheet

The 1999 Legislature approved changes in library federation law to allow all types of libraries to join federations. The State Library is now asking the Legislature to clarify the law, so that it reflects current practice and is easy to understand. Changes proposed by the bill include the following.

- Removes confusing language about systems and networks. The intent of the original language may have been to allow individual libraries to contract to provide joint services. Other sections of law provide this authority.
- Eliminates the provision for an election should a member wish to withdraw from a federation. An election is unnecessary because the contract between the member and the federation state the procedures for withdrawal.
- Provides that the federation can contract with other federations, libraries, or the State Library to provide services.
- Removes language that provides for a federation tax. No such tax is authorized in any other section of law and no local entity taxes for federation support.
- Eliminates a provision that allows the University System to provide joint library service with a public library. Other sections of law provide this authority if a local government and the Regents wished to pursue joint library services.
- Clarifies that the library director's designee can serve as coordinator.
- Removes an unnecessary statement of purpose.