

REVISE LAWS RELATED TO PUBLIC LIBRARY STATE AID

Primary Sponsor: Courtenay Sprunger (R) HD 7

HB 91

WHAT IS PUBLIC LIBRARY STATE AID?

It is the only source of state funds that can be used at the discretion of local libraries to best meet the needs of local communities. State Aid helps broaden access across Montana, strengthening libraries of all sizes. Proposed changes will include certain accredited tribal college libraries, increase the per resident aid amount, and extend the termination date for the per capita state aid formula. If not passed, libraries will lose between 2 and 3% of their funding.

PUBLIC LIBRARY STATE AID

- First appropriation passed in 2013
- Reauthorized in 2017
- Current appropriation sunsets in 2023
- Current appropriation: \$433,690
- Proposed appropriation: \$542,113

INCLUDE ACCREDITED TRIBAL LIBRARIES

Despite the lack of dedicated funds, tribal college libraries often provide the only public library service to their communities. State Aid will expand library services based on local need.



Books and Babies program, Medicine Spring Library

HOW LIBRARIES USE STATE AID

"Additional State Aid allowed us to add a new computer station, providing an essential service to our low-income community. Many people here don't have a personal computer or internet services, so more patrons than ever are using our computer and WiFi to train online, seek employment, apply for unemployment and file taxes. The strength of our WiFi also means people can use it outside the library walls and even when we're not open. That's not available anywhere else in our community."

Wedsworth Memorial Library
Cascade, MT

"The ability to purchase new materials for our children's and youth print collections provided a 44% increase in our children's circulation. More children, families and caregivers are attending our Story Time programs, and we're collaborating with elementary schools to teach children about the library and our resources. They love having new books to check out when they visit."

Sheridan County Library
Plentywood, MT

"State Aid has helped us facilitate more outreach in the communities we serve. Delivering materials to retirement facilities, home bound patrons, and community events with children's activities has been increased because we have funding to help. Extended programming is what connects people to the library and literacy."

Missoula Public Library
Missoula, MT



QUESTIONS?

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