



Illinois Library Association

Forum or Committee: **Public Policy Committee**

Report completed by: Sam Adams-Lanham

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Activities underway or completed since the last report:

- The deadline has passed for bills to advance in both chambers of the General Assembly.
- Broadband Access—[HB4758/SB3683](#) are still viable; working to ensure provisions for libraries are included in final language.
- Equitable Access to Electronic Literature Act—Bill did not advance in this session. While we are leaving the door open to revive this in 2022-23, the consensus seems to be that this is an issue that seeks a national solution. We are unclear on who the champion would be with the federal government. It should be noted that a total of eight state legislatures are focusing on the issue: Maryland, New York, Rhode Island, Illinois, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Missouri, and Connecticut.
- PPC continues to monitor bills moving through the General Assembly. Of particular interest:
 - [HB3254](#), Diversity in Literature: We should first note that this is directed at schools, not libraries. We wholeheartedly support the intention of the bill, but have serious reservations about specific wording and provisions, in particular that “the selection of each book [...] must first receive prior approval from the school board....” During the 2020-21 session, representatives from various concerned groups, at ILA’s behest, shared our issues with the bill’s initiator. No further movement occurred, and it appeared to be a moot concern. However, it returned this year, and has progressed from the House to the Senate. ILA’s executive director reached out to the local ACLU office and will ensure that the Illinois Association of Teachers of English are aware of its movement.
 - [SB3497](#), Fees/Reciprocity: The concerns voiced by library directors in IHLS is that this would become a de facto mandate, impact library budgets negatively, and result in one group of taxing library users supporting the cost of library services for all users.

Projected activities during the upcoming months:

- Seek nominees for the [Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award](#); will vote on recipient at June meeting.
- Solicit suggestions for 2022-23 legislative proposals, with an emphasis on those that would result in funded library access for every resident of the state. One way to attain this is for every address in the state to be part of a library district, just as each is part of a school and community college district.
- Work on moving forward the timetable of decision-making on, and preparation for, legislative initiatives for 2022-23 and succeeding years.

Questions or concerns that need to be addressed by the ILA Board:

- We’d ask individual board members to nominate, and encourage others to nominate, deserving individuals, groups, or institutions for the [Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award](#). 😊
- Similarly, if individuals or the board as a whole has legislative proposals that would advance funded statewide library coverage, please [propose them](#) and encourage others to do so.