



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:

- 102nd session of Illinois's General Assembly ended. The following outcomes are relevant to ILA or libraries in general:
 - In light of legal developments in other states, the e-book bill ([HB4470](#)) did not advance. More notes below.
 - Some progress has been made regarding universal broadband access. The Office for Broadband is in favor of our proposal, and libraries are listed in the state's report to the federal government on how Illinois plans to utilize national money reserved for broadband. However, specific set-asides did not make it into this year's budget.
 - Changing the requirements of the Open Meetings Act training for library trustees was not addressed this session, as there was not an appropriate bill to attach it to.
 - The revisions to the form for the Statement of Economic Interest requirement continue to be onerous, causing some to resign their posts rather than comply. The form applies to "all elected and appointed officials and local government employees who have authority to authorize the expenditure of public funds, execute contracts, and issue licenses and permits." Another revision is predicted.
 - [HB3254](#) Diversity in Literature bill did not advance, but should be monitored in the next legislative session.
 - [HB5283](#) Library Districts Treasurer bill passed and is waiting for the governor's signature. This provides that a board of trustees of a public library district may, by majority vote and instead of electing a treasurer from among the trustees, appoint and fix the compensation of a qualified treasurer that is not a trustee of the board. Note that this does not apply to municipal libraries. Also included in the bill is the Trustee Vacancies Amendment. This states that municipal and district libraries must fill trustee vacancies within 90 days (there are some exceptions if an election is imminent). If a district library does not fill the role within 90 days, the State Librarian has 30 days to do so.
 - The State Librarian did not request this provision, as demonstrated by their not filing witness slips.
 - [SB3497](#) Expansion of the Cards for Kids Act amends both the Local Library Act and the Library District Act, so would apply to municipal libraries and library districts. If this bill is signed, a library board of trustees may adopt regulations that waive the applicable nonresident fee for persons under the age of 18, regardless of socioeconomic status.

- [SB3789](#) Local Government Consolidation and Efficiency Act is a compromise on legislation consolidation discussions; there is no forced consolidation or elimination. Rather, once every ten years, public bodies are required to establish a committee and write a report that conveys the committee's perspective on the benefits of consolidating their unit of government with others.
- Under the guidance of our legislative consultant, we suggest the timeline for proposing legislation be moved earlier in the year, as noted here: [Draft of 2023 Proposal Development Timeline](#)
 - To accommodate the advanced timeline, PPC may need to meet more frequently between the July orientation and the September Executive Board Meeting, when our recommendations are passed along for the board to vote on. This would be balanced by fewer or shorter meetings in the spring. It was generally agreed that this would be acceptable to the current committee members, but the Calendar and Handbook should be updated for incoming members.
- In putting out the call for future legislative proposals, we are putting an emphasis on those that would result in funded library service for every state resident.

Projected activities during the upcoming months:

- Select Robert R. McClarren Award recipient from the field of candidates (three at this time).
- Vice chair edit [PPC Handbook](#) and [Legislative Proposals Form](#) to reflect suggested changes; current Chair will assist as requested.

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

- We recommend that ILA remain aware of the need to develop a national strategy regarding e-book pricing. The injunction in the Maryland case specifically states that this issue does not belong in state legislatures nor in the courts; the judge ruled the decision should be legislated on the federal level. The issues are addressed on the ALA-created site: [#eBooks For All](#). Should ALA pursue a national campaign, we'd suggest ILA encourage and support it.
- Efforts to ban books continue to be a concern. [Unite Against Book Bans](#) is an ALA initiative that takes an advocacy approach to the issue. Individuals and libraries are encouraged to sign on.