

By Mr. Kaplan of Brookline, petition of the Massachusetts Library Association that provision be made for state aid for public libraries. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR STATE AID TO MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The commonwealth shall provide annually to
2 each city and town meeting minimum standards of library serv-
3 ice set by the board of library commissioners a grant-in-aid for
4 its public library or libraries; the grant to be computed on the
5 following basis:—

6 (a) Each municipality with a population of under two thou-
7 sand shall receive a state-aid grant up to but not exceeding five
8 hundred dollars; provided, that the municipality is already
9 appropriating from municipal funds for public library service
10 at least that amount. Municipalities appropriating less than
11 five hundred dollars shall receive as a state-aid grant a sum
12 equal to that which is appropriated from local funds.

13 (b) Each municipality with a population of two thousand or
14 more shall receive a state-aid grant up to but not exceeding
15 twenty-five cents per annum for each resident in the municipal-
16 ity; provided, that the municipality is already appropriating
17 from municipal funds for public library service at least the sum
18 of five hundred dollars.

19 In order to encourage a reasonable support for public li-
20 braries at the local level of government, no city or town which
21 appropriates for public library service in any one year an amount
22 less than three dollars per capita shall continue to receive a
23 grant-in-aid if because of such grant-in-aid it reduces its mu-
24 nicipal appropriation of that year below the average of its appro-
25 priations for public library purposes during the four years im-
26 mediately preceding.

1 SECTION 2. The latest census, federal or state, shall be used
2 in computing the amount of each grant and the grant shall be
3 based upon the service rendered during each calendar year and
4 shall be paid on or before July first of the following year. In
5 the event that a city or town library gives approved library
6 service only during a fraction of a year, the amount of the
7 grant-in-aid computed in accordance with the formula in sec-
8 tion one shall be multiplied by such fraction.

1 SECTION 3. The board of library commissioners in promul-
2 gating regulations setting up minimum standards of library
3 service and in certifying libraries for grants-in-aid shall require
4 the filing of an annual report and shall give consideration to:—
5 (a) The library to be open to all residents of the common-
6 wealth.
7 (b) No charge to be made for normal library services.
8 (c) The library to be kept open a minimum number of hours
9 per week.
10 (d) A trained library worker to be employed.
11 (e) A reasonable portion of the library's total budget to be
12 expended for books and periodicals.
13 (f) The library to lend books to other libraries in the common-
14 wealth and extend privileges to card-holders from other public
15 libraries in the commonwealth on a reciprocal basis.

1 SECTION 4. The board of library commissioners shall estab-
2 lish a comprehensive state-wide program of regional public li-
3 brary service. The number of regional public library systems
4 so established shall not exceed five; not more than two shall be
5 established in any one fiscal year. The commonwealth shall
6 appropriate annually to the board for this purpose an amount
7 up to but not exceeding twenty-five cents per annum for each
8 resident in each regional area for which such a regional library
9 system is established. The board shall apply said appropriation
10 in the following manner:—

11 (a) Insofar as practicable the board shall enter into a contract
12 or contracts with a large public library or libraries in each re-
13 gional area under which such library or libraries shall supply
14 space, equipment, personnel, books, periodicals, and other li-
15 brary materials, and/or services to the communities having
16 fewer than twenty-five thousand inhabitants; the cost of which

17 shall not exceed fifty cents per annum for each resident in the
18 regional area in communities having fewer than twenty-five
19 thousand inhabitants;

20 (b) The board shall also designate such large public library
21 or libraries in each area or an additional large public library or
22 libraries in the area to serve as a regional reference and research
23 center or centers to meet the reference and research library needs
24 of the residents of all the cities and towns in the area; the amount
25 allocated for such reference and research service to be applied
26 only to the cost of such reference and research books, periodicals
27 and other library materials and to the cost of the personnel em-
28 ployed in such reference and research service; the cost of such
29 reference and research service not to exceed twenty-five cents
30 per annum for each resident in the regional area as a whole.

31 For each regional area the board shall establish an advisory
32 council to be constituted of the chief librarian of each city or
33 town in the regional area. The said advisory councils shall make
34 suggestions and recommendations to the board of library com-
35 missioners concerning the regional public library service which
36 the board has established for the several regional areas as pro-
37 vided above.

1 SECTION 5. Special commissions shall be appointed by the
2 governor of the commonwealth at quadrennial intervals to re-
3 view the results of the grants-in-aid program, and the operation
4 of the regional systems, and to recommend to the governor and
5 to the members of the general court such changes as they may
6 find desirable.

1 SECTION 6. The sum of _____ dollars is hereby appro-
2 priated to initiate a state program of public library assistance;
3 not more than five per cent of which shall be used by the board
4 of library commissioners in conducting research and in drawing
5 up and administering a comprehensive state-wide plan of public
6 library service in accordance with sections one, two, three and
7 four; the remainder of the sum appropriated shall be applied
8 to the payment of the grants-in-aid in accordance with the pro-
9 visions of sections one, two and three and to appropriations in
10 accordance with the provisions of section four.

