
By Mr. MacLean, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1515) of William Q. MacLean, Jr., for legislation to establish regional library districts. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-three.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICTS.

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

1 Chapter 78 of the General Laws is hereby amended by add-
2 ing the following section: —

3 *Section 33.* A Regional Library District Committee shall be
4 formed by the appointment of a public library trustee from
5 each city or town within a geographical area of the common-
6 wealth desiring to participate in a regional library district.
7 This unpaid committee shall organize immediately and elect
8 a chair, a secretary and such officers as required.

9 Said committee shall study the advisability of establishing
10 a regional library district, its organization, operation and con-
11 trol. It shall list the services to be provided the participating
12 libraries and estimate the cost of operating such library dis-
13 trict; it shall submit its report to the trustees of the partici-
14 pating libraries and to the mayors and selectmen of the par-
15 ticipating cities and towns.

16 Said committee shall make its recommendation as to the
17 desirability of establishing a regional library district to the
18 library boards and to the governing authorities of the par-
19 ticipating cities and towns; it shall recommend the number
20 of members of a regional library district board not to exceed
21 nine members in staggered terms, save that no city or town
22 may be represented by a majority of the district board; and
23 an initial operating budget derived from the per capita state
24 allocation to the Massachusetts Regional Library System in
25 which the district is situated, plus such additional funds as
26 may be derived from other governmental or private sources.

27 Said committee shall receive notification by each town clerk
28 and each city clerk that the annual town meeting and the

29 city councils have duly approved by a two-thirds vote motions
30 to participate in such regional library district. Said committee
31 shall notify the board of library commissioners who shall then
32 establish the region upon certification of the motion and shall
33 receive and approve the initial operating budget.

34 Said regional library district board shall have full power to
35 operate the district and to hire a regional library district co-
36 ordinator who shall engage such staff, upon the board's ap-
37 proval, to provide services to the participating libraries. The
38 coordinator shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the
39 board. The board may purchase or lease equipment and build-
40 ings, enter into contracts to provide and receive services, and
41 do such other business as is needed to serve the participating
42 libraries, including entering into agreements with school, aca-
43 demic and special libraries.

44 Said board shall appoint a guidance committee of three
45 board members and four directors of the participating libraries
46 to advise and guide the Regional Library District Board. The
47 coordinator shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the
48 committee.

49 The regional library district board shall make such rules as
50 are not inconsistent with the General Laws for the operation
51 of the district services to the participating libraries and such
52 rules shall be binding upon the boards of the participating
53 libraries.

54 The regional board shall submit annually a budget for ap-
55 proval by the board of library commissioners and shall comply
56 with regulations as may be issued by the board of library com-
57 missioners. The regional board shall be eligible for LSCA and
58 other federal and state funds available to the public libraries
59 in the commonwealth.

60 Public library boards desiring to withdraw from the district
61 may do so by notifying the regional board of the withdrawal
62 motion passed by a two-thirds vote of the city council or town
63 meeting; the withdrawal shall be accomplished and completed
64 not less than eighteen months after the motion was received
65 by the regional library district board and upon the receipt by
66 the regional board of notification of a second identical motion
67 passed by a two-thirds vote of the same city council or town
68 meeting.