

HB 3523

Relating to the State Library

HB 3523 relates to the State Library. The measure comes after multiple, unsuccessful efforts over the last two biennia by the Legislature, the Governor, and the agency to reorganize the State Library.

The measure incorporates many of the changes recommended in a 2012 workgroup report that was led by the Secretary of State and included the State Library, the Secretary of State Archives Division, the Judicial Department, and other entities.

Key provisions of the measure include:

- Narrowing and refocusing the mission of the agency.
- Changing the governance structure and broadening its membership.
- Changing the State Librarian to a gubernatorial appointment beginning in 2017.
- Establishing a State Reference Coordinating Council to coordinate delivery of library services among state agencies and branches of government.
- Ensuring that state agency requests for resources or services pertain to the conduct of state business.
- Establishing processes to reduce the duplication of state agency materials.

The agency will continue providing reading materials to individuals with limited vision or other disabilities as well as provide assistance and funding to over 250 municipal, county, and other local libraries throughout the state.

The measure has a minimal fiscal impact.

The General Government Subcommittee recommends HB 3523 be reported out do pass.