

HB 2243 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Economic Development

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Meeting Dates: 3/20, 4/3, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines public library as a public agency that provides free and equal access to library and information services for all residents of a city, county, library service district, school district, community college district, or library district. Requires State Library Board to establish minimum conditions for public libraries that includes financial support from public funds and regular open hours and considers the library's service population.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Library definition last changed in 1983
- Library broadband access
- Financial support includes city or county funds or in-kind contributions
- Ready to Read state grant funding and distribution method

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The State Library of Oregon was established as the Oregon Library Commission in 1905 and today provides information services to over 37,000 state government employees. The State Library also circulates library materials in digital and braille format to approximately 5,200 print-disabled Oregonians, and provides grants and assistance to help develop and improve library services, and to foster greater cooperation among all of Oregon's libraries.

The State Library Board is a nine member board including representatives of state agencies, public libraries, citizens, and community college or public university libraries appointed by the Governor, along with the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction and Commission for the Blind Executive Director or their designees. The Board is the policy-making body for the State Library.

House Bill 2243 defines public library as a public agency that provides free and equal access to library and information services for all residents of a city, county, library service district, school district, community college district, or library district. The bill also requires the State Library Board to establish minimum conditions for public libraries that includes financial support from public funds and regular open hours and that considers the library's service population.