

Proposed Changes to Chapter 257 – State Aid to Public Libraries

Current	Proposed Changes
<p>257.14 Division of Library and Information Services; rules.--The Division of Library and Information Services has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss.120.536 (1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this chapter.</p>	<p><i>No change in s. 257.14.</i></p>
<p>257.15 Division of Library and Information Services; standards.--The Division of Library and Information Services shall establish reasonable and pertinent operating standards under which libraries will be eligible to receive state moneys.</p>	<p><i>No change in s. 257.15.</i></p>
<p>257.16 Reports.--Any library receiving grants under ss. 257.14-257.25 shall file with the Division of Library and Information Services on or before December 1 of each year a financial report on its operations and furnish the division with such other information as the division may require.</p>	<p><i>No change in s. 257.16.</i></p>
<p>257.17 Operating grants.--A political subdivision that has been designated by a county or municipality as the single library administrative unit is eligible to receive from the state an annual operating grant of not more than 25 percent of all local funds expended by that political subdivision during the second preceding fiscal year for the operation and maintenance of a library, under the following conditions:</p> <p>(1) Eligible political subdivisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A county that establishes or maintains a library or that gives or receives free library service by contract with a municipality or nonprofit library corporation or association within such county; (b) A county that joins with one or more counties to establish or maintain a library or contracts with another county, a special district, a special tax district, or one or more municipalities in another county to receive free library service; 	<p><i>No change in s. 257.17.</i></p>

Current	Proposed Changes
<p>(c) A special district or special tax district that establishes or maintains a library and provides free library service; or</p> <p>(d) A municipality that establishes or maintains a library or that gives or receives free library service by contract with a nonprofit library corporation or association within the municipality.</p> <p>(2) The library established or maintained by such political subdivision shall:</p> <p>(a) Be operated under a single administrative head who is an employee of the single library administrative unit and who has completed a library education program accredited by the American Library Association. The single administrative head shall have at least 2 years of full-time paid professional experience, after completing the library education program, in a public library that is open to the public for a minimum of 40 hours per week.</p> <p>(b) Expend its funds centrally.</p> <p>(c) Provide reciprocal borrowing, and other library services pursuant to interlocal agreement, to residents of all political subdivisions within the county which receive operating grants from the state.</p> <p>(d) Have at least one library or branch library open for 40 or more hours per week.</p> <p>(e) Have a long-range plan, an annual plan of service, and an annual budget.</p> <p>(f) Engage in joint planning for coordination of library services within the county or counties that receive operating grants from the state.</p> <p>(3) Any political subdivision establishing public library service for the first time shall</p>	

Current	Proposed Changes
<p>submit a certified copy of its appropriation for library service, and its eligibility to receive an operating grant shall be based upon such appropriation.</p>	
<p>257.171 Multicounty libraries.— Units of local government, as defined in s. 165.031(1), may establish a multicounty library. The Division of Library and Information Services may establish operating standards and rules under which a multicounty library is eligible to receive state moneys. For a multicounty library, a local government may pay moneys in advance in lump sum from its public funds for the provision of library services only.</p>	<p><i>No change in s. 257.171.</i></p>
<p>257.172 Multicounty library grants.-- (1) The administrative unit of a multicounty library that serves a population of 50,000 or more, or has three or more counties, is eligible for an annual grant from the state. The grant funds are to be used for the support and extension of library service in participating counties. The grant must be computed by the division on a state matching basis up to \$1 million in local expenditures by all participating counties for operation and maintenance of a library during the second preceding year. The administrative unit of a multicounty library with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Two participating counties is eligible for a grant equal to 5 cents on each local dollar of expenditure. (b) Three participating counties is eligible for a grant equal to 10 cents on each local dollar of expenditure. (c) Four participating counties is eligible for a grant equal to 15 cents on each local dollar of expenditure. (d) Five participating counties is eligible for a grant equal to 20 cents on each local dollar of expenditure. (e) Six or more participating counties is eligible for a grant equal to 25 cents on 	<p>257.172 Multicounty library grants.-- (1) The administrative unit of a multicounty library <u>that includes at least one county that qualifies for an equalization grant and serves a population of 50,000 or more, or has three and has two</u> or more counties, is eligible for an annual grant from the state. The grant funds are to be used for the support and extension of library service in participating counties. The grant must be computed by the division on a state matching basis up to \$1 million in local expenditures by all participating counties for operation and maintenance of a library during the second preceding year. The administrative unit of a multicounty library with:</p> <p><i>No change in s. 257.172(1)(a)-(e).</i></p>

Current	Proposed Changes
<p>eligible for a grant equal to 25 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.</p> <p>(2) In addition, the administrative unit of a multicounty library with three or more participating counties is eligible to receive a base grant of a minimum of \$250,000 to support multicounty library service. That amount may be adjusted by the division based on the percentage change in the state and local government price deflator for purchases of goods and services, all items, 1983 equals 100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of Commerce, as certified by the Florida Consensus Estimating Conference.</p> <p>(3) For the purposes of this section, s. 257.21 does not apply.</p>	<p>(2) In addition, the administrative unit of a multicounty library with <u>two</u> participating counties is eligible to receive a <u>base grant of \$50,000 and those with</u> three or more participating counties <u>is are</u> eligible to receive a base grant of a minimum of \$250,000 <u>\$350,000</u> to support multicounty library service. That amount may be adjusted by the division based on the percentage change in the state and local government price deflator for purchases of goods and services, all items, 1983 equals 100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of Commerce, as certified by the Florida Consensus Estimating Conference.</p> <p><i>No change in s. 257.172(3).</i></p>
<p>257.18 Equalization grants.--</p> <p>(1) Any county qualifying for an operating grant is eligible to receive an equalization grant when the value of 1 mill adjusted to reflect the average statewide level of assessment is below the median amount for all counties in the state and the per capita local funds expended for library support during the second preceding year is below the average for all counties.</p>	<p>257.18 Equalization grants.--</p> <p>(1) Any county qualifying for an operating grant is eligible to receive an equalization grant when the value of 1 mill adjusted to reflect the average statewide level of assessment is below the median amount for all counties in the state and the per capita local funds expended for library support during the second preceding year is below the average for all counties <u>if it meets four eligibility criteria:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>The county was eligible for an Equalization grant in FY 2006-2007.</u></p> <p>(b) The value of 1 mill adjusted to</p>

Current	Proposed Changes
<p>The equalization factor is computed by subtracting the value of 1 mill adjusted to reflect the average statewide level of assessment for each county from the average adjusted value of 1 mill for all counties and then dividing that amount by the average adjusted value of 1 mill for all counties.</p>	<p>reflect the average statewide level of assessment is below the median amount for all counties in the state; and the per capita local funds expended for library support during the second preceding year is below the average for all counties.</p> <p>(c) <u>The county operating millage subject to the 10 mill cap is equal to or above the average for all counties and/or the per capita income for the county is equal to or below the average for all counties.</u></p> <p>(d) <u>The county has been continuously eligible for an equalization grant each year since fiscal year 2006-2007.</u></p> <p>(2) <u>If a county fails to meet the criteria to be eligible for an equalization grant in any one year, its equalization grant funding is phased out over a three-year period. In the first year, the county will receive the grant amount for which it qualified the previous year with notification that it will be phased out over the next 2 years; the second year the library will receive 2/3 of that same amount, and then 1/3 in the third year. In future years, the county will not be eligible to receive an equalization grant.</u></p> <p>(3) <u>Equalization grants to eligible counties are calculated in the following manner:</u> <u>(a) The equalization factor is computed by subtracting the value of 1 mill adjusted to reflect the average statewide level of assessment for each county from the average adjusted value of 1 mill for all counties and then dividing that amount by the average adjusted</u></p>

Current	Proposed Changes
<p>An equalization grant is computed by multiplying the equalization factor times the total local funds expended for library support by that county during the second preceding year and adding that amount to the actual total local funds expended for library support by that county during the second preceding year. The result is the adjusted value for the local funds expended for library service. The amount of the equalization grant is equal to 25 cents of the adjusted value of local funds expended for library service.</p> <p>(2) When the adjusted mill equivalent of actual local funds expended for library support by the county during the second preceding year is above the statewide average adjusted mill equivalent of actual local funds expended by all counties receiving operating grants, the amount of the equalization grant is equal to 50 cents of the adjusted value of local funds expended for library service.</p> <p>(3) The Division of Library and Information Services shall calculate equalization grants based on the amount of local funds expended for library service the second preceding year as certified by the appropriate county officials and information on the level of assessment of property in</p>	<p>value of 1 mill for all counties.</p> <p><u>(b)</u> An equalization grant is computed by multiplying the equalization factor times the total local funds expended for library support by that county during the second preceding year and adding that amount to the actual total local funds expended for library support by that county during the second preceding year. The result is the adjusted value for the local funds expended for library service. The amount of the equalization grant is equal to 25 cents of the adjusted value of local funds expended for library service.</p> <p><u>(c)</u>When the adjusted mill equivalent of actual local funds expended for library support by the county during the second preceding year is above the statewide average adjusted mill equivalent of actual local funds expended by all counties receiving operating grants, the amount of the equalization grant is equal to 50 cents of the adjusted value of local funds expended for library service.</p> <p><u>(d)</u> <u>No county may receive an equalization grant that is equal to more than 10% of the total amount required to fund equalization grants to all eligible counties.</u></p> <p><u>(4)</u> The Division of Library and Information Services shall calculate equalization grants based on the amount of local funds expended for library service the second preceding year as certified by the appropriate county officials and information on the</p>

Current	Proposed Changes
<p>each county and the taxable value of property in each county as reported by the state agency authorized by law, which shall certify the results of such determination to the division.</p> <p>(4) For the purposes of this section, s. 257.21 does not apply.</p>	<p>level of assessment of property in each county, and the taxable value of property in each county, <u>the county operating millage subject to the 10 mill cap, and the per capita income</u> as reported by the state agency authorized by law, which shall certify the results of such determination to the division.</p> <p>(5) For the purposes of this section, s. 257.21 does not apply. <u>For the purposes of this section and to protect those counties most dependent on equalization grants, the amount available to fund equalization grants will remain frozen at the fiscal year 2006-2007 level of \$8,877,057 until 15% of the total appropriation for operating, multicounty and equalization equals this amount. Thereafter, equalization grants may not exceed 15% of the amount appropriated for operating, multicounty and equalization grants. If the total appropriation for operating, multicounty and equalization grants is less than the fiscal 2006-2007 level of \$31,999,233 then s. 257.21 applies.</u></p>
257.191 Construction grants.--	<i>No change in s. 257.191.</i>
257.192 Program grants.--	<i>No change in s. 257.192.</i>
257.193 Community Libraries in Caring Program.	<i>No change in s. 257.193.</i>
257.195 Revenue shortfalls; procedures.-- In the event of revenue shortfalls which necessitate budget reductions during any fiscal year, the total appropriation for library grants from state sources shall have the same ratable reduction as that applied to the operating funds of the Division of Library and Information Services or such reduction shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of State.	<i>No change in s. 257.195.</i>
257.21 Maximum grants allowable.-- Any reduction in grants because of insufficient funds shall be prorated on the basis of maximum grants allowable.	<i>No change in s. 257.21.</i>

Current	Proposed Changes
<p>257.22 Division of Library and Information Services; allocation of funds.--Any moneys that may be appropriated for use by a county, a municipality, a special district, or a special tax district for the maintenance of a library or library service shall be administered and allocated by the Division of Library and Information Services in the manner prescribed by law. On or before December 1 of each year, the division shall certify to the Chief Financial Officer the amount to be paid to each county, municipality, special district, or special tax district, and the Chief Financial Officer shall issue warrants to the eligible political subdivisions.</p>	<p>257.22 Division of Library and Information Services; allocation of funds.—</p> <p>(1) Any moneys that may be appropriated for use by a county, a municipality, a special district, or a special tax district for the maintenance of a library or library service shall be administered and allocated by the Division of Library and Information Services in the manner prescribed by law. On or before December 1 of each year, the division shall certify to the Chief Financial Officer the amount to be paid to each county, municipality, special district, or special tax district, and the Chief Financial Officer shall issue warrants to the eligible political subdivisions.</p> <p>(2) <u>The amendment to s. 257.172, Florida Statutes providing a base grant to a multicounty library with two counties shall take effect immediately. The amendment increasing the base grant for libraries with three or more counties shall take effect when the Legislature appropriates for operating, multicounty and equalization grants from state sources a minimum 3 percent more than the appropriation for such grants for fiscal year 2006-2007.</u></p>
<p>257.23 Application for grant.-- The board of county commissioners of any county, the chief executive officer of a municipality, or the governing body of a special district or special tax district desiring to receive a grant under the provisions of ss. 257.14-257.25 shall apply therefor to the Division of Library and Information Services on or before October 1 of each year on a form to be provided by the division. The application shall be signed by the chair of the board of county commissioners and attested by the clerk of the</p>	<p><i>No change in s. 257.23.</i></p>

Current	Proposed Changes
<p>circuit court or the appropriate officer in a charter county, by the chief executive officer of a municipality and attested by the clerk of the municipality, or by the chair of the governing body and attested by the chief financial officer of a special district or a special tax district. The county, municipality, special district, or special tax district shall agree to observe the standards established by the division as authorized in s. 257.15. On or before December 1 each year, the applicant shall certify the annual tax income and the rate of tax or the annual appropriation for the free library or free library service, and shall furnish such other pertinent information as the division may require.</p>	
<p>257.24 Use of funds.--State funds allocated to libraries shall be expended only for library purposes in the manner prescribed by the Division of Library and Information Services. Such funds shall not be expended for the purchase or construction of a library building or library quarters, except such funds specifically appropriated for construction purposes as provided in this chapter.</p>	<p><i>No change in s. 257.24.</i></p>
<p>257.25 Free Library Service.--Free Library Service shall constitute as a minimum the free lending of library materials that are made available for circulation and the free provision of reference and information services.</p>	<p><i>No change in s. 257.25.</i></p>