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MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida Library Association
CC: Robert Stuart
FROM: Chris M. Spencer
DATE: March 27, 2018
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2018 Legislative Session reflected a difficult budget year for several reasons. Entering the budget-writing process ahead of Session, revenue estimators projected a budget shortfall with varying ranges of significance to the state's budget. While estimates improved as estimators continued to revise their projections through Session, roughly two-thirds of the way through Session and well into the budget-writing process, the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, necessitated swift response and significant spending on school safety and mental health treatment. The legislature pulled together spending packages exceeding \$500 million in response to the tragedy, along with significant policy proposals which consumed extensive time during Session and quickly became the first priority of virtually every legislator. The effect of the significant spending proposals, and focus directed to gun safety legislation, was felt in all areas of the General Appropriations Act (GAA). Ultimately, most recurring programs accounting for any significant amount of general revenue experienced either level funding from prior fiscal years, or decreases in appropriation. The Governor's vetoes were historically low at \$64 million in total.

STATISTICS FROM 2018 SESSION:

2018-2019 GAA Total:	\$88,727,534,353
2018-2019 GAA Veto Total:	\$64,050,696
Total Bills Filed:	3,250
Bills Heard in Committee:	2,853
Total Bills Passed Both Chambers:	200

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SPECIFIC ISSUES FROM SESSION:

State Aid to Public Libraries

The final number agreed upon amount for State Aid to Public Libraries was \$20,304,072 (Line 3109). While this number is below the 2017-2018 fiscal year appropriation of \$23,098,834, the appropriation this year does meet the required spending amount to continue to draw down contingent federal funding.

Public Library Construction

This budget item fluctuated significantly during the conference process, with Senate funding initially fully funding the 15 projects that have passed the Department of State's review at \$8.5 million. Ultimately at the conclusion of conference, both the House and Senate made no appropriation for Library Construction grants.

Library Multitype Cooperatives

The final number in the GAA was \$2,000,000 (Line 3108) for cooperatives, reflecting a continuation from prior fiscal years of cooperatives funding at their statutory maximum.

Smart Horizons Online High School Library Program

The final number in the GAA was \$750,000 (Line 125). Despite receiving a veto last year, the appropriation survived the Governor's budget vetoes for this fiscal year.

State Colleges and Universities – Academic Cooperative E-Resources

The final number in the GAA is contained within proviso to specific appropriation line number 143. The University of West Florida shall receive \$2,535,616 at the beginning of the first quarter of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and another \$4,317,400 at the beginning of the second quarter. This totals \$6,853,016, which is in line with the prior fiscal year appropriation.