

HB 2243 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Economic Development

Carrier: Rep. Gomberg

Action Date: 04/08/19

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 11-0-0-0

Yeas: 11 - Barreto, Bonham, Drazan, Fahey, Helm, Lively, Marsh, McKeown, McLain, Wallan, Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

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.

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
- Free and equal access to basic services at public libraries

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The State Library of Oregon, established in 1905 as the Oregon Library Commission, 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 that includes 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 basic library and information services for all residents of a city, county, library service district, school district, community college district, or library district. The State Library Board will establish minimum conditions for public libraries, including financial support from public funds and regular open hours, and that consider the library's service population.