

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 2243 - A

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Defines "public library" as public facility providing free and equal access to library and information services for all residents of local government unit.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Counties, Oregon State Library (OSL), Cities

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

HB 2243 - A changes the definition of public library to a public agency that provides "to all residents of a local government unit free and equal access to library and information services that are suitable for persons of all ages." This measure also directs the State Library Board to establish minimum conditions that a public library must meet, including financial support from public funds, regularly scheduled open hours, and considering the library's service population.

While there is likely to be no or minimal fiscal impacts as a result of this measure, a library could be determined to not qualify as a legally established library and be ineligible for the Oregon State Library's "Ready to Read" General Fund grants due to the changes in definition and qualifications that are outlined in this measure. Establishment of minimum qualifications could also create new expenses for cities or counties seeking to bring library systems into compliance.