

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on
Education(SC-Ed)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **97hrSC-Ed_Misc_pt20a**

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

MARSHFIELD

Dale E. Barkowiak, Director

P U B L I C

211 East Second Street • Marshfield, WI 54449-3702

L I B R A R Y

(715) 387-8494 • FAX (715) 387-6909

August 22, 1997

Senator Cal Potter, Chairman
Senate Education Committee
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Potter and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Marshfield Public Library's Board of Trustees to encourage the adoption of Senate Bills 259 and 269.

The public library legislation being proposed is long overdue and, thanks to the Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Public Libraries, some long-time concerns of library users, library trustees, and librarians are being placed on the table.

The Marshfield Public Library has faced continuing problems obtaining adequate reimbursement for the services it provides to persons outside of our municipality. Due to its location, Marshfield's market area extends into Wood, Clark and Marathon counties.

SENATE BILL 269 - TOWN APPEAL OF LIBRARY BOARD OR COUNTY BOARD DECISION
DISAPPROVING CREATION OF OR PARTICIPATION IN LIBRARY

On January 1, 1996 our library was fiscally forced to cease services to over 5,000 library card holders in Marathon and Clark counties because of the withdrawal of funding from the Wisconsin Valley Library Service and the reluctance of Clark and Marathon counties to assume the cost of service.

Knowing that services would be terminated and subscription fees instituted, the Town of McMillan, which borders our city but is in Marathon County, attempted to withdraw from the Marathon County library service and participate in a joint library with Marshfield. While we were willing, the statutes left them helpless after Marathon County refused their request. It is my understanding that a spokesperson from the Town of McMillan will be testifying at the hearing, with the backing of over 600 signatures from Town of McMillan residents, to support the section of Senate Bill 269 that would allow a township to appeal their county's decision to the state superintendent of public instruction. We fully support this liberating legislation that allows the money to follow the business.

SENATE BILL 269 - COUNTY PAYMENT FOR LIBRARY SERVICES

The section of Senate Bill 269 dealing with requiring counties to reimburse libraries at a minimum of 75% of their cost per service is also highly supported by our library. The six public libraries in Wood County have

struggled for years to get adequate reimbursement for their services -- services they are mandated to provide if they wish to remain members of a public library system. In 1997, our library was receiving only 66% of our cost to provide service and relying on our city taxpayers to absorb the rest.

SENATE BILL 259 INCENTIVE AID

Though only a small portion of our cost per circulation (about 24%), the incentive program for providing \$.50 per circulation for circulation to persons outside our municipality would accomplish the following:

1. It would assist with recouping the rest of the cost if our county, on passage of the mandatory 75% reimbursement rate, adopts the minimum reimbursement required.
2. It would prevent us from having to close library doors to residents of areas more peripherally located to Marshfield, in counties across our system boundaries.
3. It would help even up inequities experienced by larger libraries who experience a good deal of usage by residents of communities with their own, but much smaller, public libraries.

I thank you for your time and understanding. Please, if there are any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dale E. Bartkowiak, Director
Marshfield Public Library



— *City of Hartford* —

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
115 NORTH MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, WI 53027-1596
(414) 673-8240
FAX (414) 673-8300

August 27, 1997

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding pending Senate Bills 259 and 269. While I was a member of the Legislative Council Committee that studied the library issues, the testimony that I will present is on behalf of Roberta Olson, Director of the Duerrwaechter Memorial Library in Germantown; John Reid, Director of the West Bend Community Memorial Library; and myself as Director of the Hartford Public Library, all three of which are located in Washington County.

Regarding Senate Bill 259, the library lending incentive aid package, the three libraries would like to encourage the Committee's approval of this proposal and passage by the legislature. The additional revenue that this money will provide to all of the state's public libraries is vital to helping both maintain and expand existing library services plus the funds will assist with the costs associated with providing various new technologies to serve the residents not only of the library's home community but those people of neighboring communities that choose to use that library. The problem of receiving adequate financial support for providing service to nonresidents has plagued the library community for years and this proposal helps make the State of Wisconsin a funding partner in continuing that service.

Regarding Senate Bill 269 which suggests several revisions to existing state statutes on libraries, I would like present the following background. For the past eleven years, the five public libraries of Washington County have worked with Washington County to provide open access to all the libraries to all the residents of the County. For the first seven years of county service, the five library municipalities supplemented the cost of service to the rural users by at least 50%. Four years ago, an extensive review of library costs took place which led to a contract that dramatically increased library support by Washington County. By the end of 1997, the libraries will be receiving almost 90% reimbursement for the cost of providing service to rural library users. For the past eight months, the libraries have been negotiating with our County Library Board for a new contract for continuing county library service. A preliminary five year contract that had been accepted by the five libraries and the County Library Board would not only bring the county reimbursement up to parity with the municipal costs, but the County had agreed to become more of a partner in helping fund new services such as an outreach program for the elderly and homebound, sharing the costs of a merged computer-operation in our three libraries, and providing new funds to offset capital costs associated with running a 21st century library.

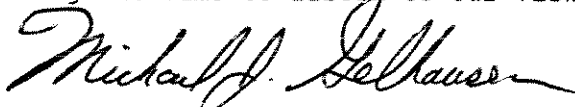
That tentative contract is now in jeopardy due to interpretations of Sections 5 through 10 of SB269, those concerned with 43.11 and 43.12. Our County Corporation Counsel had advised the municipal attorneys to suspend consideration of the new contract, and perhaps only seek a one year extension to our existing agreement until the "ramifications" of SB269 are better known. In our review of the new provisions found in 43.11 and 43.12, we are unable to see where the new language drastically alters County Library Board and County Board authority and the service agreements found in the new contract except for the funding provisions in 43.12 (1) and 43.12 (2). The 75% reimbursement level is indicated to be a minimum level, not a funding ceiling. 43.12 (5) allows counties to continue to provide additional funding for the betterment of library services to their residents. However, if other counties which have developed a history of good library support begin to interpret 43.12 in a similar fashion and accept 75% as the maximum funding necessary to "pay off" their libraries for serving rural patrons, the goal of getting every county to provide some basic support will have been met but at the expense of previously well supported libraries. With this in mind, we respectfully ask the Committee to consider the following when reviewing SB269 after these hearings:

1. Consider raising the county payment from 75% to 100% in 43.12 (1). This would increase reimbursement to actual cost and prevent a reduction in support if a county decides to interpret the 75% level as the maximum payment instead of the minimum.

2. Consider allowing counties and their member libraries to negotiate service contracts that at least meet the minimum 75% level yet have individual distribution guidelines and timetables that better suit those counties and libraries to supersede 43.12 (1) and 43.12 (2). This could allow existing procedures to continue as long as basic reimbursement levels are met, and allow for other service agreements as provided in 43.12 (5).

3. Delay action on the Sections of SB269 that deal with 43.11 and 43.12 until some of the various county concerns have been addressed. Those concerns may never be settled, and perhaps 43.11 and 43.12 will then be forwarded for action but at least more time will have been allowed to address the issues before drastic changes may occur to existing library operations.

Our thanks to the Committee for taking the time to listen to our views.



Michael J. Gelhausen
Director - Hartford Public Library

Senate Bill 269

August 1997

To: Senator Calvin Potter
and

To: The Legislative Council Special Committee on Public Libraries.

From: The Town Board of McMillan, Marathon County.

We thank Senator Potter and the Members of the Legislature who worked on the Document on Public Libraries. In particular, McMillan Township is appreciative of the proposed legislation (WLCS: 0118/1) which would allow our town to appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding county disapproval of a joint library.

Two years ago, when the Marshfield Library in Wood County left the Wisconsin Valley Library System and joined the South Central Library System, McMillan residents lost access to the Marshfield Library due to withdrawal of reimbursement. Then, the Town of McMillan asked to withdraw from the Marathon County Library System so we could join the Marshfield Library in Wood County. We were turned down by the Marathon County Library Board and the County Board of Supervisors. The proposed legislation is important to us because it gives us the right to appeal.

Our children attend the Marshfield schools and we want them to have access to library service within their school district. We feel that our children are at a disadvantage compared to children in Marshfield when we cannot provide them with equal access to library material. In addition, because most McMillan residents work, shop, and/or attend school in Marshfield; it is not feasible to use the Marathon County Library in Wausau as it is too far away, and the branch library is inadequate.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Drach

Steve Drach, Chairman of the Town of McMillan.

Arlene Larson, Treasurer
Louise Greenlaw, Clerk
Vincent Weber Supervisor
John Weigel Supervisor
David L. McShervin Supervisor

School District of Marshfield

1010 East Fourth Street
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449
Phone 715 387-1101
FAX 715 387-0133



KEN KRAHN
Superintendent of Schools

BRUCE KING
Assistant Superintendent

Senate Bill 269

August 6, 1997

Senator Calvin Potter and the Legislative Council
Special Committee on Public Libraries:

The Board of Education of the School District of Marshfield would like to take this opportunity to go on record supporting the choice of McMillan Township for library services within their school district.

This unanimous opinion substantiates our position of two years ago when a similar proposal was presented to the Board. We believe it is in the best educational interest of district children to all have equal access to public library materials.

Sincerely,

Ken Krahn
Superintendent of Schools

KK/cl

cc: Senator Dave Zien
Representative Robert Zukowski

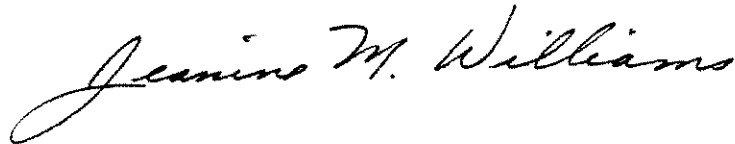
8-3-97

Senate Bill 269

To Whom It May Concern:

The Marshfield Teacher's Association would like to go on record in support of the proposed legislation which allows for appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in order for a township to be able to expand its library services with a municipality in another county.

Thank you ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanine M. Williams". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Thank you" text.

Jeanine M. Williams

President, Marshfield Teacher's Assoc.

Marshfield Area
Chamber of Commerce & Industry
P.O. Box 868
700 S. Central Avenue
Marshfield, WI 54449



Barbara Fleisner
Executive Director
715/384-3454
FAX 715/387-8925
E-mail: macci@wctc.com

Senate Bill 269

August 7, 1997

Mary Dickson
M232 Sugarbush Lane
Marshfield, WI 54449

Dear Mary,

Thank you for stopping by and informing me of pending legislation that may allow a township to participate in library funding of their own choice, not dictated by county boundaries.

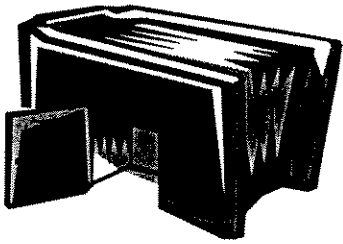
Personally, I can understand that it would be most economical and feasible for residents in McMillan Township to have their library needs serviced through the Marshfield Public Library. I am sure the city of Marshfield, likewise, would welcome the financial assistance offered by township of McMillan.

Though my board of directors has not taken an official position on this issue, I can only speak for myself when I say that McMillan Township residents are always welcome in our community, and I hope appropriate legislation is acted upon that will make "doing business with our local library" both economically viable and more productive for your local residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Barb Fleisner'.

Barb Fleisner
Executive Director



McMillan Library News

Library Issue Alert !!

Senate Bill 269

To: Residents of Town of McMillan
From: McMillan Library Committee

The Wisconsin State Legislative Council Special Committee on Public Libraries has prepared legislation that would allow our town to appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding county disapproval of a joint library.

As you may recall, McMillan Township had asked the County if we could withdraw from the Marathon County Library System, thereby allowing us to join the Marshfield Library. We were turned down by the Marathon County Library and The County Board of Supervisors. This legislation, if passed, would give us the right to appeal the Marathon County decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Senate hearing is scheduled for August 13, 1997. There is no date scheduled for the Assembly at this time.

While this legislation works its way through the legal process, there are things we can do to encourage passage.

1. The Town Board of McMillan will send a letter to Senator Potter who chaired the Legislative Council Special Committee on Public Libraries
2. We have endorsements from the Marshfield School Board and The Marshfield Teachers Association.
3. The McMillan Library Committee will send letters to D. Zien and R. Zukowski.
4. In addition to this newsletter, the library committee is preparing letters to be sent around McMillan Township for residents to sign. These letters will be sent to the Senate for the hearing on this legislation.
5. We encourage you to write individual letters to our State Senator Dave Zien, Room 139 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI, 53707-7882; and to our State Representative Robert Zukowski, P.O. Box 8953, State Capitol, Madison WI, 53708. Many of you have stories to tell. When you write, be sure to identify the legislation. A sample letter could go like this:

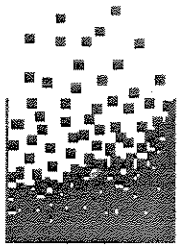
To: State Senator Dave Zien

From: your name, Town of McMillan, Marathon County.

This letter is in regard to the legislation proposed by the Legislative Council Special Committee on Public Libraries. This legislation may provide a way for McMillan Township to withdraw from the Marathon County Library and regain Marshfield Library service. I (or, our family) would like to be able to use the Marshfield Library because1) I (we) work in Marshfield and it is difficult to get to the Marathon County Library or one of its branches when the libraries are open; 2) our children go to the Marshfield Schools and we would like them to be able to use the same library as children in Marshfield. It would be fairer for them to have equal access to library material. Our children could walk or bike to the Marshfield Library after school, but this is not a possibility with the Marathon County Library; 3) we own a business and/or own property in Marshfield but are unable to use the Marshfield Library because we are McMillan residents; 4) we can use the Marshfield Library if we pay an annual fee, but we resent this because we are already paying for library service in Marathon with our property tax; 5) your personal stories and concerns.

Sincerely, Sign your name.

McMillan Library Committee: Mary Dickson, Charles Radtke, Dorothy Adler



South Central Library System

Administration Office

5250 East Terrace Drive, Suite A • Madison, WI 53704-8340

608/246-7970 • FAX 608/246-7958 • TDD 608/246-7974

Testimony on Behalf of the South Central Library System Presented to the Senate Education Committee August 27 1997

My name is Peter Hamon. I am the Director of the South Central Library System, serving the 50 public libraries and more than 680,000 residents of Wood, Portage, Adams, Sauk, Columbia, Dane, and Green Counties.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you concerning Senate Bills 259 and 269. I am here to urge your passage of this legislation.

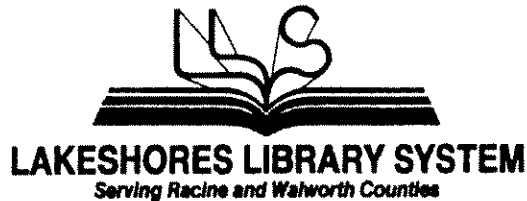
In this information age, no individual library can afford to purchase all of the print and electronic resources requested by its customers. To solve this problem, libraries share extensively with each other on behalf of the people they serve. In my public library system area the number of items loaned by one municipality to another to fill customer requests exceeded 790,000 in 1996, and will approach a million by the end of 1997. Our delivery vans carried more than four million books and other materials to and from our member libraries in 1996, and this load is growing by about 17% per year. Our member libraries checked out well over 7.7 million items directly to the public in 1996, a service which is increasing at a rate of about a quarter of a million items annually.

This incredible growth in service demand is caused by the simple fact that information, to put it bluntly, has become a very "sexy" commodity. People and businesses have found that up-to-date and reliable information can make a major difference in their lives. They have also discovered that buying all the information they need is too expensive, and that searching on the Internet, even if the information they require can be found there, is too time consuming and complex to undertake on a regular basis. Thus, the public turns, in ever increasing numbers, to libraries to meet their information needs.

We can no longer cope. Many libraries have already cut their materials budgets and curtailed their hours. Since we have had no increase in state funding since 1994, my own public library system has long ago made all the easy cuts, and now faces the layoff of key staff. Should we shut down entirely? If not, how do we decide which citizens should be denied as basic a service as checking out a book? We cannot charge the public directly. This is forbidden by Wisconsin law. More importantly, how could we expect a child, perhaps already living below the poverty level, to pay to use the books to do his or her homework? We can't raise local taxes. Public library systems do not have taxing authority. Most local libraries are caught in the municipal crunch of rising costs for public safety versus levy limits. In short, further service cuts, charging for services, or raising taxes at the local level are just not viable options.

A good portion of the answer to this problem is provided by SB 259 and SB 269. One of these bills provides an incentive payment to encourage libraries to keep sharing materials with all the people of our state. The other begins to restore public library system funding to the basic levels promised by the state so long ago, requires counties to at last pay their fair share of the library funding mandate so long borne by cities alone, and solves many technical problems in the statutory language concerning how we fund and operate libraries in Wisconsin. This legislation is badly needed and long overdue. I urge your unanimous endorsement of it.

Serving libraries in Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk & Wood counties.



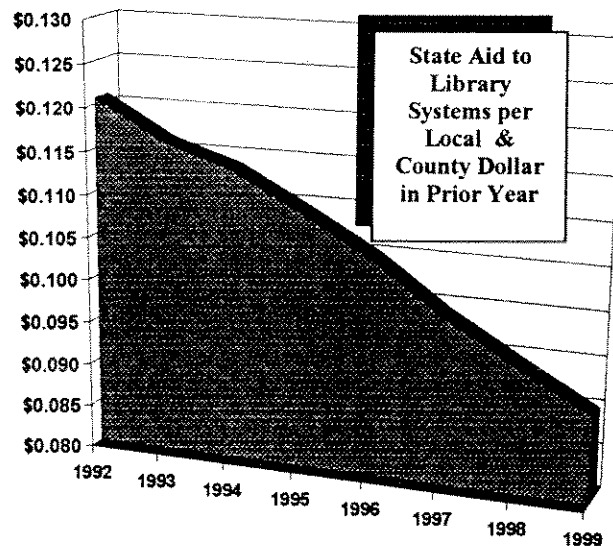
730 Wisconsin Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53403

Testimony on 1997 Senate Bill 269
By Thomas J. Hennen Jr., Lakeshores Library System Administrator
To the Wisconsin Senate Education Committee on August 27, 1997

Senator Potter, members of the Senate Education Committee, members of the audience, my name is Tom Hennen. I am the administrator of the Lakeshores Library System, a public library system serving the residents of Racine and Walworth Counties. I am speaking today on my own behalf, but I believe that most of my remarks will reflect the policy positions of the system board. I am in favor of the legislation before the Committee known as Senate Bill 269. The legislation is the result of intensive study by a Legislative Council Committee. Leo Thomas, the Lakeshores Library System Board President, served on that committee. While I support most of the provisions of the bill, I wish to focus only on the provisions relating to state aid to public library systems and the formula for its distribution.

As the graph demonstrates, from 1992 to 1997, the legislature appears to have decided to make the State of Wisconsin an increasingly smaller financial partner in library service. The graph was prepared prior to passage of the 1998-99 biennial budget, but I have assumed further erosion in state support levels for those years as well.

Besides the erosion of overall state support -- from 12 cents per local dollar in 1992 to under 9 cents for 1999 projections -- there is yet another problem. It is the distribution formula itself.



The public library system aid formula currently requires distribution for state aid to public library systems as follows:

1. \$20 per square mile ¹
2. 4 cents per local dollar expended
3. per capita distribution for remaining funds

¹ For multi-county systems; \$6 per square mile for single county systems.

The formula is by its very nature unstable. The number of square miles in the state is static, of course. Local expenditures have grown at, or near the rate of inflation. The area factor is fixed and the expenditure factor is growing with inflation. If state funding is flat, the inevitable result is a reduction in the per capita factor in the funding formula. Funding grew just 2% in 1995 and has remained at \$11.7 million since then. In 1992 almost 58% of the funding to library systems was attributable to the population factor. By 1997 the rate was down to just 51%. More and more of the funding formula will flow into the expenditure factor with flat overall funding. This means that systems that have few square miles and moderate to poor local funding will be in increasing jeopardy under the current funding formula unless the state increases the total funding or reduces the expenditure factor.

Senate Bill 269 specifies that two years after the State appropriates 13 cents for every local dollar expended for library services, the system aid formula will change. Please note that I said 13 cents on a local dollar, not a 13% index level. I believe that this is a crucial difference. Too many assume that a 13% index is the amount of increase sought. To avoid this confusion and to focus on the state commitment, I urge you to consider 13 cents on a local dollar as your goal, rather than a 13% index rate.

Thirteen cents per local dollar is quite a distance from the presently projected 9 cents, of course. But it is nearly impossible to change a formula, even one that is progressively devastating systems in both the far north and far south of the state, without holding the other recipients harmless from the formula change.

I strongly urge you to remember that in the final analysis library systems serve people, not square miles or local funding ability. Please re-assert the primacy of the people being served in the funding formula.

Public library systems have proved their worth as effective organizations for improving public library services and providing greater access to a variety of timely resources. It is becoming increasingly evident that public library systems do not have sufficient funding to provide the level of services needed by the libraries and library patrons in their system areas. Without adequate funding, systems are forced to spread their resources so thinly that they achieve only minimum compliance with many of the statutory service requirements.

To remain viable, public library systems must provide a level of services that makes participation valuable to libraries in the system area. The present level of funding jeopardizes the current status of full participation by all libraries in the state.

I urge you to aim at a target of keeping the state as a significant partner in the delivery of library service. That means reversing the trend of lower and lower levels of state support and re-establishing the primacy of population in the state aid formula.

Testimony on 1997 Senate Bill 269
By Thomas J. Hennen Jr., Lakeshores Library System Administrator
To the Wisconsin Senate Education Committee on August 27, 1997

SRLAAW

System and Resource Library Administrator's Association of Wisconsin

August 27, 1997

Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Karen Krueger and I am the Director of the Hedberg Public Library in Janesville. I am testifying today as Chair of SRLAAW, which is the System and Resource Library Administrator's Association of Wisconsin. Our group, which represents most of the large public libraries in the state and all the regional library systems, is in full support of both SB259 and SB269.

There will be other testimony from SRLAAW members on SB269. I will concentrate on SB259, the library lending incentive aid bill. As you know, this bill would provide 50 cents for each loan made by a library to someone residing outside its primary service area.

This bill is very much needed. Although non-resident use of libraries has existed for a long time, this use was relatively modest. If reimbursement was not adequate or non-existent, most libraries could (and did) absorb the cost of serving non-residents. However, inadequate compensation for non-resident use is now a major problem for many libraries, probably for a variety of reasons -- people's life styles have changed (2 career couples, increased commuting and mobility), the information explosion, etc. The system has begun to break down and it appears is on the verge of further breakdown as financially strapped libraries begin to resist providing service to non-residents at the expense of service to their own tax-paying public.

At my library 26% of our circulation is primarily from people who live in other cities, in rural areas in Rock County, or in one of four neighboring counties. This amounted to 276,000 loans last year. We currently receive good compensation for use by rural county residents, poor compensation for use by residents of other cities in Rock County, and no compensation for use by people in neighboring counties. As our budget tightens and we struggle with ways to maintain current services to our own taxpayers, our City Council and Library Board question the cost of serving non-residents. This situation is certainly not unique to Janesville; is replicated in many, many other communities.

Librarians have been struggling with this issue for years, and it has always seemed extremely complicated. We categorize non-residents based on where they live and to whom they pay property taxes. But in actuality, for the lending library (the one providing the service) the impact of use by a non-resident is the same regardless of whether he or she lives in a neighboring town with a library, across system lines, etc.

One of the beauties of SB259 is its simplicity. It looks at this issue from the service provider's point of view: a non-resident is a non-resident. It provides a simple and, we expect, effective means of keeping library doors open to non-residents across the state. Although 50 cents per loan is not reimbursement (for many of us the cost of a loan as defined in state statutes is closer to \$2.00), it is an incentive. It would help every library in the state, since we all have non-resident use. For libraries which are financially pinched, it could mean the difference between keeping its doors open to non-residents and closing those doors.

I urge your support for SB259. It is in the state's interest to give citizens convenient access to libraries because this encourages consumption of information. This library lending incentive aid program puts money behind the statutory language that public libraries are a matter of statewide concern.

Testimony in Favor of Senate Bills 259 and 269
Wisconsin Senate Education Committee Hearing
August 27, 1997

My name is Douglas Baker. I am the Director of the Kenosha Public Library and the Kenosha County Library System. I am also Chair of the Wisconsin Library Association's Library Development and Legislation Committee. I am here today in my capacity as Chair of the Library Association's Library Development and Legislation Committee.

First, let me take this opportunity to thank the members of the Legislative Council's Special Committee on Public Libraries for their hard work in developing proposals which solve a wide range of issues facing Wisconsin's public libraries. After review and approval by the Joint Legislative Council, the Special Committee's recommendations now come before you as 1997 Senate Bills 259 and 269.

Senate Bill 269 provides solutions to many troubling problems which have, at times, disrupted the smooth delivery of public library services in Wisconsin. This Bill includes legislation to repair sections of Chapter 43 of the Wisconsin Statutes which, over years of experience, we in the Library community have found to be outdated, cumbersome, confusing, or unnecessary. Other provisions of Senate Bill 269 offer effective measures to improve the working relationship between public library systems and their members. Finally, this Bill corrects decades of decline in the level of state support for public library systems. When library system legislation was first enacted in the early 1970's, the total appropriation for library systems was equivalent to 20% of local library expenditures. By the time I came to this state as a library system director in 1978, system funding had declined to 13% of local library expenditures. Through a steady, slow process since then, public library system funding has now dwindled to less than 10% of local library expenditures.

This downward trend must stop. Effective public library systems require funding at least at the 13% indexing level. Public library systems are poised to be major players in the delivery of new information technologies at Wisconsin's public libraries. They must have the resources to carry out this critical mission. On behalf of the Wisconsin Library Association, let me urge your favorable action on Senate Bill 269.

Senate Bill 259 provides the answer to an issue which has impeded the delivery of local library service among different municipalities. For years, it has been a matter of statewide concern to provide universal access for all Wisconsin citizens to all Wisconsin public libraries. Achieving this lofty goal has, unfortunately, been an initiative left up to localities. So far, local public libraries have signed on to open access because of the threat of expulsion from their public library system if they failed to provide that access. This has caused unnecessary friction among local units of government and public library systems. We feel a far better way to approach this issue is to provide an incentive program to libraries to open their doors to residents beyond their municipal boundaries. It is in the State's interest to provide aid to local libraries; and it is also in the State's interest to encourage open access for all Wisconsin citizens to those libraries.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to testify before this committee today and to urge your favorable consideration of Senate Bills 259 and 269.

Douglas Baker, Director
Kenosha Public Library and Kenosha County Library System
812 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

214 Lakeview Avenue
Lake Mills WI 53551-1429
August 22, 1997

Senator Calvin Potter, Chair
Senate Education Committee
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Potter:

I am unable to attend the Senate Education Committee public hearings on 1997 Senate Bills 259 and 269 on August 27. I ask that you distribute this letter to all committee members and other appropriate people. Thank you.

There is much in these two bills that will benefit citizens of Wisconsin through improved library service. Communication and accountability are evident in many sections.

My concern is with S.B. 269. Section 39.43.58 (6) (c) on pages 22 and 23. There is not clarity about the antecedent for the word "it" in the phrase "before it is sent to the public library system."

Last year I spent many hours as a trustee for library service in Jefferson County (one of four member counties in the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System) and chaired an ad hoc study committee about the five library systems to which Jefferson County could belong. I was told the library board letters to the system had not been acknowledged; I was told the system did not receive direct communication of the request for an audit which became a review.

This may help you understand my concern about no provision specifically to give the public library system a copy of the statements its member libraries provide the division of library and community learning. Please either require the libraries to provide a copy of the statement at a particular time, or ask the division to provide a compilation of all the statements for each system in a timely fashion.

Thank you for your work on behalf of library service to all Wisconsin residents.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Heidemann

Carolyn Heidemann
member, Jefferson County Library
Council, 1991-1996
chair, Council ad hoc study com-
mittee about 5 systems to which
Jefferson County could belong,
August-November, 1996

copies: Senator Fitzgerald
Representative Ward
Division of Library and
Community Learning, DPI

25 copies of this letter are enclosed.



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841
125 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702
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John T. Benson
State Superintendent

Steven B. Dold
Deputy State Superintendent

August 27, 1997

The Honorable Cal Potter
Chairman, Senate Education Committee
Wisconsin Senate
Madison WI

Dear Senator Potter:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before this committee concerning SB 259 and SB 269. My name is Carolyn Winters Folke. I am the administrator for the Division for Libraries and Community Learning at DPI. With me is Larry Nix who is the director for Public Library Development and Al Zimmerman who is the Public Library System Administration & Finance Consultant for the division. Larry and I will provide testimony for DPI and Al is available for information on further financial specifics.

Overall, the department supports both these bills. SB 259 provides an incentive for public libraries to lend materials to any person in the state, regardless of county or municipality of residence. Such an incentive acknowledges that public library materials are purchased with public funds and the state wishes to maximize the benefit from those materials. It is our understanding that an amendment will be made to make clear that the full costs will be paid only to libraries circulating less than 100 items to non-residents. We support this amendment.

SB 269 addresses a variety of concerns that emerged from the Legislative Council study on public libraries, particularly issues surrounding funding adequacy and equity. Larry will provide specific testimony on several of the provisions.

I want to speak specifically about the requirement for a public library and school library technology conference. The bill requires the state superintendent to hold such a conference and submit a report and plan to the governor and the legislature not later than March 1, 1999. We agree completely with the desirability of such a conference, report and plan, but we intend to carry this out as soon as possible. The state superintendent has begun making plans to convene the conference in February 1998. Representation will include all the groups recommended in the Legislative Council report and will involve DOA as a partner. This process should provide the library community with strategic technology directions just as the PK-12 community and the state agencies have established strategic technology directions. We have established this time frame so that the plan can be used in building the next biennial budget request. Therefore, we recommend that this section be deleted from SB 269.

Larry Nix will now speak to other provisions in SB 269.

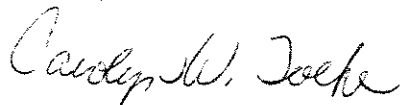
I would like to specifically address the recommendation in Section 34 of SB 269 that DPI include in its biennial budget request an amount for each fiscal year for public library systems that is equal to 13% of the total operating expenditures for public library services from local and county sources. DPI supports this requirement, and included this amount in its biennial budget request for 1997-99. Every Wisconsin resident has had legal access to free public library service since 1990. This goal was achieved largely because of the development of federated public library systems. In addition public library systems have enabled any resident within a system area to use any public library within the system without charge. This current level of access to public libraries, however, is in serious jeopardy for a number of reasons. One of those reasons is that state support for public library systems has been declining as a share of local and county support for public library services. DPI considers the 13% index level a reasonable target for state support for public library systems given the role systems play in providing access to adequate public library service in the state.

Section 24 of SB 269 provides that the expenditure factor in the formula for distributing public library system aid will be reduced from 4% to 2% when the 13% indexing level is achieved. DPI included a similar provision in its budget request for 1997-99. The impact of the expenditure factor needs to be decreased in the formula. Under the Governor's proposed budget, public library systems would get no increase in funding for the second biennium in a row. If this occurs there will be a disparate impact on public library systems. Systems will actually receive decreases or increases in their individual budgets ranging from minus 2.26% to plus 2.80%. The expenditure factor plays a large role in these variations, yet it has a very limited public policy basis.

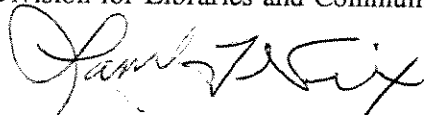
Another major factor affecting access to public library service is the inequity between municipal and county funding for public library service. This inequity is significant and has prompted a number of public libraries to consider closing their doors to non-residents. Both SB 259 and SB 269 provide relief to public libraries which are struggling to maintain adequate public library service to their own residents as well as residents of communities which do not have their own public library. SB 259 and SB 269 have a lot to do with equity; equity of funding and equity of public library service. We are concerned that if the issue of equity is not addressed Wisconsin residents will have less access to the information and knowledge resources they need as we move into a future where such information is essential to productive and rewarding lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and we would be happy to answer any questions you might have in regard to these two bills.

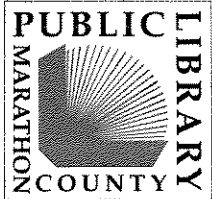
Sincerely,



Carolyn Winter Folke
Assistant Superintendent
Division for Libraries and Communit Learning



Larry T. Nix
Director of Public Library Development



Headquarters Library
300 North 1st Street
Wausau, WI 54403-5473
715-847-5400

LIBRARIES IN: Athens, Edgar, Marathon, Mosinee, Rothschild, Schofield, Spencer, Stratford, Wausau

August 18, 1997

Senator Calvin Potter
P.O. Box 7882
Madison WI 53707

Dear Senator Potter:

The Senate Bill 269 which has been forwarded to the Senate Education Committee contains a provision which will be detrimental to consolidated county libraries. The language proposed in Section 35. 43.52 (1m) of the statutes which creates a problem for us is that which allows a town essentially to give their library tax dollars to a neighboring county if the State Superintendent agrees. While this language will help counties that do not operate a consolidated county, it will damage a county library structured like Marathon County Public Library.

Loss of any portion of our county-wide levy will bring about closing of library hours, cutback in book purchases, and degradation in service county-wide to accomodate the lower budget we would receive from the county.

In this situation, allowing one township to take library tax and offer it to a different county is akin to allowing a neighborhood to leave a city. As a consolidated county library, we operate as though the county were a city with all residents paying on a per capita basis to a common library.

The solution we can offer is an addition of language to Section 35. 43.52 (1m) which states:

This excludes the counties that operate a consolidated county public library.

The exclusion we are requesting still allows city libraries to structure their funding from counties advantageously.

Thank you for your serious consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary J. Bethke".

Mary J. Bethke
Library Director

SECTION 35. 43.52 (1m) of the statutes is amended to read:

43.52 (1m) On and after April 10, 1986, any town desiring to establish a new public library or participate in a joint library under s. 43.53 shall in addition to the requirement under sub. (1) obtain the approval of the county library board, if one exists, and the county board of supervisors before final action is taken. The county library board and the county board of supervisors shall render decisions within 90 days of the request being received. A town may appeal a denial to the state superintendent. The state superintendent shall hold a public hearing on the appeal within 60 days after receiving notice of the appeal. The state superintendent shall publish a class 1 notice under ch. 985 of the hearing and shall also provide notice of the hearing to the town board, the county board of supervisors and the county library board. The state superintendent shall decide the appeal within 30 days after the adjournment of the public hearing. The state superintendent may approve the establishment of a new public library or participation in a joint library

notwithstanding the disapproval by the county library board or the county board of supervisors.

NOTE: Under current law, any town that desires to establish a new public library or to participate in a joint library must obtain the approval of the county library board, if one exists, and the county board of supervisors. This SECTION provides that a town may appeal to the state superintendent of public instruction a decision of the county library board or the county board of supervisors that disapproves the creation by the town of a new public library or the participation by the town in a joint library. The state superintendent is required to: 1) hold a public hearing on the appeal within 60 days after receiving notice of it; and 2) decide the appeal within 30 days after the adjournment of the public hearing. The state superintendent may approve the creation by the town of a new public library or the participation by the town in a joint library notwithstanding the disapproval by the county library board or the county board of supervisors.

SECTION 36. 43.54 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

43.54 (1) (a) Each public library established under s. 43.52 shall be administered by a library board composed in each city of the 2nd or 3rd class or school district of 9 members, in each city of the 4th class of 7 members and in each village, town, tribal government or tribal association of 5 members. Two additional members

August 22, 1997

Senator Cal Potter, Chairman
Senate Education Committee
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Potter and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Marshfield Public Library's Board of Trustees to encourage the adoption of Senate Bills 259 and 269.

The public library legislation being proposed is long overdue and, thanks to the Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Public Libraries, some long-time concerns of library users, library trustees, and librarians are being placed on the table.

The Marshfield Public Library has faced continuing problems obtaining adequate reimbursement for the services it provides to persons outside of our municipality. Due to its location, Marshfield's market area extends into Wood, Clark and Marathon counties.

SENATE BILL 269 - TOWN APPEAL OF LIBRARY BOARD OR COUNTY BOARD DECISION
DISAPPROVING CREATION OF OR PARTICIPATION IN LIBRARY

On January 1, 1996 our library was fiscally forced to cease services to over 5,000 library card holders in Marathon and Clark counties because of the withdrawal of funding from the Wisconsin Valley Library Service and the reluctance of Clark and Marathon counties to assume the cost of service.

Knowing that services would be terminated and subscription fees instituted, the Town of McMillan, which borders our city but is in Marathon County, attempted to withdraw from the Marathon County library service and participate in a joint library with Marshfield. While we were willing, the statutes left them helpless after Marathon County refused their request. It is my understanding that a spokesperson from the Town of McMillan will be testifying at the hearing, with the backing of over 600 signatures from Town of McMillan residents, to support the section of Senate Bill 269 that would allow a township to appeal their county's decision to the state superintendent of public instruction. We fully support this liberating legislation that allows the money to follow the business.

SENATE BILL 269 - COUNTY PAYMENT FOR LIBRARY SERVICES

The section of Senate Bill 269 dealing with requiring counties to reimburse libraries at a minimum of 75% of their cost per service is also highly supported by our library. The six public libraries in Wood County have

struggled for years to get adequate reimbursement for their services -- services they are mandated to provide if they wish to remain members of a public library system. In 1997, our library was receiving only 66% of our cost to provide service and relying on our city taxpayers to absorb the rest.

SENATE BILL 259 INCENTIVE AID

Though only a small portion of our cost per circulation (about 24%), the incentive program for providing \$.50 per circulation for circulation to persons outside our municipality would accomplish the following:

1. It would assist with recouping the rest of the cost if our county, on passage of the mandatory 75% reimbursement rate, adopts the minimum reimbursement required.
2. It would prevent us from having to close library doors to residents of areas more peripherally located to Marshfield, in counties across our system boundaries.
3. It would help even up inequities experienced by larger libraries who experience a good deal of usage by residents of communities with their own, but much smaller, public libraries.

I thank you for your time and understanding. Please, if there are any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dale E. Bartkowiak, Director
Marshfield Public Library



Wisconsin Valley Library Service

A Multitype Library System

300 First Street • Wausau, WI 54403 • (715) 847-5549

August 22, 1997

Senator Calvin Potter
Wisconsin Senate
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	8-22-97	# of pages	4
To	Sen. Cal Potter	From	H. E. Dred		
Co./Dept.	WI Senate	Co. W	(S) Valley Service		
Phone #	(608) 266-2056	Phone #	(715) 847-5550		
Fax #	(608) 266-7038	Fax #	(715) 845-4270		

Dear Senator Potter,

I will not be able to attend the August 27th hearing on SB 259/SB 269 but I do have a few comments to make about them which I hope your committee will take into consideration.

RE: SB 259 -

- public libraries in the seven county Wisconsin Valley Library Service area are basically supportive of the concept of state level reimbursement for non-resident service.
- the language in SB 259 which describes "loan" could be further clarified to point out that these are loans to walk-in patrons. If the language is not clarified, there are those who will try to interpret it as meaning any kind of loan...including interlibrary loans where a library sends material to another library for use by a specific patron. I know that DLCL means walk-in patrons when they interpret this bill but why not clearly state exactly what kind of loans will be reimbursed right in the statutory language?

RE: SB 259, cont.

- In the aid calculation section (p. 3, lines 3-6), it seems apparent that, if a library actually gives a few hundred circs to non-residents, it will get a higher reimbursement if it only claims 82 or 96 or ??? (any # less than 100) because of the difference in reimbursement rates...e.g. let's say the library's actual cost per circ is \$2.29 and they report 113 non-resident circs. Under the language of SB 259, the library would receive $113 \times \$0.50 = \56.50 . However, if the library only reported 96 circs, they would receive $96 \times \$2.29 = \219.84 . Library personnel are, for the most part, very honest sorts but, giving them this kind of choice - especially when library funding is so inadequate - might really push them into claiming fewer non-resident circs than they should...and who could blame them if the statutory language stays the way it is in SB259?
- the final concern I have on the language of SB259 concerns the fact that it is not clear if the State is willing to reimburse libraries for the items they circulate to out-of-state non-residents. If the language is purposely vague, fine. But leaving it the way it is will allow libraries to charge for circs they make to summer residents and tourists whose residences are in other states and/or to people who live on the borders of Wisconsin and neighboring states who regularly use Wisconsin public libraries.

RE: SB 269 -

- the WVLS community supports the concept of reducing the "value" of the expenditure factor in the state aid formula. Rural systems have regularly lost ground to the more affluent and more populous systems because of this formula factor. Change it...the sooner, the better!

SB 269, cont.

- asking counties to pay 75% of the cost of service given to county residents who do not already support a public library seems fair to the WVLS community. In our area, it wouldn't make much difference from the level of support now being given by our member counties. The difference might be in the way the county funds are distributed among the libraries in the county.
- While it's probably fine to allow counties to develop standards for their libraries, I personally think that it is not necessary to legislate this idea...it's only permissive language anyway...what keeps counties from doing this now?
- Allowing a town to appeal a negative decision from its county library board and county board of supervisors to establish a new public library or to participate in a joint library is, in my opinion, a VERY dangerous precedent to set...especially if consolidated county libraries are not exempted from this law. How can a county do a good job of running its business if various towns in that county can choose to purchase various services from other counties or municipalities? In the library service sector, allowing this to happen in opposition to the judgment of those in the county who know their library service needs best, will only create more hard feelings and move the non-resident borrowing issues to different borders. Why does it seem OK for the State to have the power to tell a county that it must support another library in its county?

Senator Potter, I'm sorry that I could not attend the hearing and raise my concerns in person but I hope that you, and your committee, will consider the points I have raised in this letter.

08/22 17:29 1997 FROM: 715 845 4270 TO: 6082667038
08/22/97 FRI 14:22 FAX 715 845 4270 WI VALLEY LIBRARY SERV.

PAGE: 4

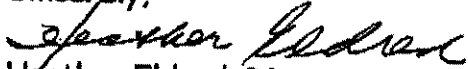
004

4.

If you have any questions about my issues/questions, I can be reached at
(715) 847-5550.

Thank you for your consistent support for Wisconsin's libraries across the
years...your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Sincerely,



Heather Eldred, Director
Wisconsin Valley Library Service



**Indianhead
Federated
Library
System**

1538 Truax Boulevard, Eau Claire, WI 54703-1569
Phone 715-839-5082 ■ Fax 715-839-5151

August 15, 1997

The Honorable Calvin Potter, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Senator Potter:

Yesterday the Indianhead Library System Advisory Council of Librarians reviewed SB259 and SB269 and adopted a position on both.

SB 259 was endorsed without hesitation.

SB 269 was endorsed with one reservation.

Wis. Stats. 43.12 would be created which would require counties to pay libraries in their county at least 75% of the cost of non-resident service. We believe in principle this is a good requirement. Libraries in rural library systems such as ours should receive better support as a result of this law. However, it may damage the county library services which exist in Barron, Pierce, and Polk Counties.

We believe the language needs to be strengthened to protect existing county library services. This could be done by allowing the funds which support county services to count toward meeting the 75% requirement if that is the county's desire. Or perhaps it could be done in some other way.

Our concern is that if counties can't count their county library service funding as part of the 75% they will close their county libraries. My view is that that development would be harmful to library service overall. The coordinating and developmental role of county library services in rural counties with many small libraries cannot be ignored. Moving a county's library appropriation from a county library service to the individual libraries will result in a net reduction in the quality of service overall and it is a reduction which will be most noticeable in our smallest library communities.

So, we encourage you to find a way to support the preservation of county library services through this bill which is something the current language does not do.


Sincerely,

Milton Mitchell
Director

Memorandum

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



DATE: 12/9/97
TO: Senator Cal Potter 
FROM: Larry T. Nix, Director of Public Library Development
SUBJECT: Changes to SB 269

In reviewing SB 269 we discovered some items which should have been included based on actions of the Special Committee on Public Libraries.

1) Repeal:

43.24 (2) (f) Rapid and regular delivery and communication systems for participating public libraries as evidenced by a written plan and service program.

Rationale: Reflects DPI proposal as agreed to by SRLAAW and Special Committee on Public Libraries. Language in (fm) replaces this language.

2) Repeal:

43.24 (2)(h) Professional consultant services to participating public libraries and counties as evidenced by a written plan and a service program.

Rationale: Reflects DPI proposal as agreed to by SRLAAW and Special Committee on Public Libraries. Language in the new (e) replaces this language.

3) Repeal:

43.24 (2) (j) Continuous planning with the division and with participating public libraries and counties in the area in regard to developing the library materials collection to meet the service needs as evidenced by a written collection development plan.

Rationale: : Reflects DPI proposal as agreed to by SRLAAW and Special Committee on Public Libraries. Language in the new (i) allows library systems to do this on a voluntary basis.

4) Repeal

43.24 (2) (L) Cooperation and continuous planning with other types of libraries in the system area, which results in agreements with those libraries for the appropriate sharing of library resources to benefit the clientele of all libraries in the system area and a written plan for furthering cooperative activities among all types of libraries.

and recreate:

43.24 (2) (L)Agreements with other types of libraries or multitype library organizations in the system area for the appropriate sharing of library resources to benefit the clientele of all libraries in the system area.

Rationale: Reflects DPI proposal as agreed to by SRLAAW and Special Committee on Public Libraries.

5) Repeal

43.24 (2) (m) Continuous planning with the division and with participating public libraries and counties in the area in regard to the library automation and technical services as evidenced by a written plan.

and recreate:

43.24 (2) (m) The development and implementation of a library technology and resource sharing plan which is revised at least once every five years involving participating public libraries, other types of libraries, and the division.

Rationale: Reflects DPI proposal as agreed to by SRLAAW and Special Committee on Public Libraries.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
DIVISION FOR LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY LEARNING
February 10, 1997

*Original
Recommendations*

STATUTORY CHANGE FOR CONSIDERATION: SYSTEM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

43.24 (2) For a public library system to qualify for and maintain its eligibility for state aid under this section it shall ensure that all of the following are provided:

(a) The establishment of agreements to provide, to any resident of the system area, the same library services, on the same terms, that are provided to the residents of the municipality or county that established the member library, except for the group programming preference authorized under s. 43.15 (4) (c) 4, and to provide for the interlibrary loan of materials among all participating public libraries, as evidenced by agreements with those libraries.

Comments:

This combines two requirements [the old (a) and (c)] for agreements into a single requirement. Systems already enter into a single agreement for these purposes.

(b) Backup reference, information, and interlibrary loan services from the system resource library, including the development of and access to specialized and electronic resources collections, as evidenced by a written agreement with that library.

Comments:

Minor modifications reflecting a more accurate description of services and collections available through a system resource library.

~~—— (c) The establishment of agreements to provide, to any resident of the system area, the same library services, on the same terms, that are provided to the residents of the municipality or county that established the member library, except for the group programming preference authorized under s. 43.15 (4) (c) 4, and ensure in interlibrary loan of materials among all participating public libraries, as evidenced by agreements with those libraries.~~

Comments:

This requirement is combined with the requirement in (a).

(d) ~~(c)~~ Referral or routing of reference and interlibrary loan requests from libraries within the system to libraries within and outside the system, ~~as evidenced by a plan and service program.~~

Comments:

Stricken language is unnecessary.

~~(ed) Professional consultation with and in-service training for participating public library personnel and trustees within the system as evidenced by a plan and a service program.~~

Comments:

This language combines requirements previously in (e) and (h). These two requirements are closely related.

~~(fe) Rapid and regular delivery of physical and electronic information and library materials among and communication systems for participating public libraries as evidenced by a written plan and service program.~~

Comments:

This language change updates the statute to reflect new technology.

~~(gf) Service agreement with all adjacent library systems as evidenced by the agreements.~~

Comments:

This language is not necessary.

~~(h) Professional consultant services to participating public libraries and counties as evidenced by a written plan and a service program.~~

Comments:

This requirement is combined with another requirement in the new (d).

~~———(j) Continuous planning with the division and with participating public libraries and counties in the area in regard to developing the library materials collection to meet the service needs as evidenced by a written collection development plan.~~

Comments:

Public library systems would be authorized to continue current services in this area under the new (j), but would not be required to do so.

~~(kg) Continuous planning with the division and with participating public libraries and counties in the areas in regard to providing Promotion and facilitation of library service to users with special needs and the coordination and implementation of a plan of service as evidenced by the written plan and documentation of its implementation.~~

Comments:

The language is simplified, and a separate plan is no longer required. The requirement under 43.17 (5) for the system to annually submit a plan describing the program for library service to be carried out in the subsequent year is sufficient.

~~(Lh) Cooperation and continuous planning- Agreements with other types of libraries or multi-type library organizations in the system area, which results in agreements with those libraries for the appropriate sharing of library resources to benefit the clientele of all libraries in the system area and a written plan for furthering cooperative activities among all types of libraries.~~

Comments:

The revised language focuses on the most important part of the requirement, and eliminates the requirement for a separate plan.

~~(mi) Continuous planning with the division and with participating public libraries and counties in the area in regard to the library automation and technical services as evidenced by a written plan. The development and implementation of a library technology and resource sharing plan which is revised at least once every five years involving participating public libraries, other types of libraries, and the division.~~

Comments:

The revised language clarifies that a separate plan for library technology and resource sharing is required, and that it should be developed at least once every five years. A separate plan in this highly specialized area is necessary.

~~(j) Any other service programs designed to meet the needs of participating public libraries and the residents of the system area as determined by the public library system board with input from participating public libraries.~~

Comments:

This new language provides flexibility to public library systems to develop additional service programs based on the needs of their member libraries and residents of the system area.

(nk) That, if the system reimburses a participating public library for the costs of providing interlibrary borrowing services to an individual who holds a valid borrower's card of another participating public library, the reimbursement shall not exceed the actual costs incurred by the public library in providing such services. The department shall promulgate rules for determining actual costs for the purposes of this paragraph.

SENATE BILL 269

MCMILLAN TOWNSHIP (MARATHON COUNTY) LIBRARY PROBLEM

Our problem is the decision by Marathon County that McMillan Township accept the Marathon County Library as our primary resource in lieu of the services we have traditionally received from the Marshfield Library in Wood County. We consider this a poor and unfair decision. Senate Bill 269 would provide us a mechanism of appeal.

HISTORY

Until two years ago, McMillan residents had used the Marshfield Library in Wood County. (for over 30 years.)

Then two things happened:

1. The Wisconsin Valley Library Service decided to phase out reimbursement to the Marshfield Library for Marathon County residents. (reimbursement would go to zero in 1997).
2. Wood County decided to leave WVLS and join the South Central Library System because they could receive better service.

This left 2,900 library card users in Marathon County who could no longer use the Marshfield Library in Wood County without paying an annual \$70.00 user fee in addition to their library property tax.

McMillan Township then asked to withdraw from the Marathon County Library. The Marathon County Library and the County Board turned us down.

Statistics: Marshfield Library in Wood County had 4,500 library card users from Clark and Marathon County. Both counties are in the Wisc. Valley Library Service; reimbursement had been \$95,000 per year. McMillan Township property tax for library service to Marathon is around \$43,000; McMillan had 896 Marshfield library card users prior to 1995.

REASONS WHY MCMILLAN WANTS TO RETURN TO THE MARSHFIELD LIBRARY

1. McMillan residents have used the Marshfield Library for over thirty years. It has not been easy to accept a lesser system, - a bookmobile one day a week for 2 hours, - a small branch library (1/8 the size of the Marshfield Library) ten miles away in Stratford, - and the main Marathon County Library, 45 miles away in Wausau.

2. Geographically, McMillan abutts directly on the northern border of Marshfield. 90% of McMillan residents are within 4 miles of the city limits. Marshfield's residential community has spilled over into McMillan and we are continuing to experience a lot of residential growth. Functionally, most of McMillan is like a suburb of Marshfield.

3. The majority of children from McMillan Township attend the Marshfield Schools (495students), and the majority of McMillan residents work in Marshfield. Our lives are centered around Marshfield, for education, employment, medical facilities, cultural and sport activities, and

McMillan Township (Marathon County) Library Problem, Continued

shopping. There is little reason to drive 10 miles to the small town of Stratford. It is not economical nor is it efficient.

4. McMillan residents feel it is most beneficial for our children to have their schools and library in the same district. The Marshfield School Board and School Teachers endorse this. It is easier for the students, the parents and the teachers. All students would then have equal access to course material referenced in the library.

5. Most McMillan residents object to paying an annual user fee for a Marshfield Library Card. Many residents will not pay as they feel they are being double taxed for library service, and indeed they are, - once with their library property tax and then again with a user fee to Marshfield.

6. The Marshfield Library allows McMillan residents without a Marshfield Library card to come in and browse, but they cannot take out any books, nor can they have access to the computer and internet, and that makes them feel like second class citizens. I feel that there are a lot of people who are not using any library. We also know that a lot of kids and adults are borrowing library cards from their friends and relatives in Marshfield. Subterfuge of this type is not healthy. McMillan wants to find a legitimate method to pay for library service and pay it once, not twice.

The decision of Marathon County preserves their vision of a complete county library system at the expense of more readily available and superior service in Marshfield. The mission of a public library should be to provide the best service available. We urgently feel that there should be a review of the current situation in relation to McMillan. The Senate Bill 269, would provide a mechanism for appeal of this decision. We urge passage of this bill. 606 residents of McMillan have signed a petition submitted to you attesting to this position.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE HEARING ON SB269 FROM MCMILLAN TOWNSHIP

1. Letter from the Town Board of McMillan to Senate Potter and the Special Committee on Public Libraries.
2. Letter from the residents of McMillan Township with 606 signatures.
3. Letter from Marshfield School Board.
4. Letter from the Marshfield Teachers Association.
5. Letter from the Executive Director of Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce.
6. Letter to Senator David Zien from the McMillan Library Committee.
7. Letter to Representative Robert Zukowski from the McMillan Library Committee.
8. Letter to Senate hearing on SB296 from Richard Scheuer, Marathon County Supervisor.
9. An additional letter from the Town of Day, Marathon County supporting Senate Bill 269, signed by 40 residents

Sincerely, Mary Dickson, McMillan Township, Marathon County..

SUPPORT SENATE BILL 269

August 1997

**TO: The Honorable Senator Calvin Potter and the Legislative Council
Special Committee on Public Libraries**

FROM: Residents of Day Township, Marathon County, Wisconsin

We thank Senator Potter and the members of the Special Committee on Public Libraries. Senate Bill 269 is important to us because, at least, it provides a township the right to appeal a County Board decision to disapprove a joint library request. As an additional measure, we support legislation that would provide individuals (property taxpayers) the right to appropriate their library services tax to the library system of their choice. Such legislation would eliminate the burden placed on county board supervisors to dictate to residents which library system they must patronize. This legislation would also eliminate the "user's fee" (a double tax) for library services held against some residents and not others.

NAME

ADDRESS

Alan + Emily Kraus	D1974 Elm St. Stratford
Deb + Chuck Kraus	D3238 CTH-M Stratford
Richard + Dolores Kraus	D1968 Elm St. Stratford WI
Daryl J. Beining	D1934 Cty Rd C Stratford WI
Boyer andrus	D2370 Cty C Auburndale WI
Karen Archer	"
Jim Offei	D-2438 Cty Rd C Auburndale WI
Carol Offei	"
Terry Hamus	D-3295 Cty M Stratford WI
Wayne Wyman	5282 Hwy C Auburndale WI
Pat Kraus	D3067 N. Holet Dr. Stratford WI 54484