



**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**  
**DOA 12/19/2017**

LRB Number <b>17-2650/1</b>	Introduction Number <b>AB-0572</b>	Estimate Type <b>Original</b>
<b>Description</b> the collection and maintenance of certain public library data by the Division for Libraries and Technology, authorizing small, rural libraries to apply		

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

2017 AB 572 provides that public libraries located in municipalities of 20,000 or less and in census-defined rural territories as defined by the US Census Bureau would be eligible for the information technology block grants to improve information technology infrastructure and education technology training grants.

The Department currently administers these grant programs as part of the TEACH program also administered by the Department. TEACH subsidizes much of the cost to provide telecommunications access (e.g. data lines and video links) to eligible schools, libraries, and educational institutions, with funding provided by USF funds and the Department's federal e-rate funds. 2015 Act 55 provided for the use of TEACH funds for information technology block grants to improve information technology infrastructure, and educational technology teacher training grants. The grants are currently available to school districts. Currently, statutory provisions direct the Department to award up to \$15 million in FY18 and \$7.5 million in FY19 for infrastructure grants, and up to \$1.5 million annually for teacher training grants.

2017 AB 572 provides that the infrastructure grants shall also be available to public libraries and training grants shall be available to libraries to train librarians. The grants are available to libraries located in municipalities with populations of 20,000 and less, and located in Census-defined rural territories. The Census Bureau definition of a rural territory is any territory, population, and housing units located outside of urban areas (1,000 or more people per square mile in a developed territory that contains 50,000 or more people) and urban clusters (1,000 or more people per square mile in a developed territory that has at least 2,500 people but fewer than 50,000 people). The amount awarded to a library would be based on the population of the municipality in which the library is located: up to \$1,000 would be available for training grants and up to \$10,000 would be available to eligible libraries for infrastructure grants.

Additional funding is not provided to the Department for the grants. Rather, existing funding contained in the USF appropriation under s. 20.505(4)(s), Stats., would be utilized. TEACH-related service costs are paid from s. 20.505 (4)(s), Stats. When funding from this appropriation is exhausted, remaining service costs are paid from s. 20.505 (4) (mp), Stats., Federal e-rate.

In FY17, the Department awarded \$1.5 million of available Teacher Training grant funding. The utilization of \$1.5 to also fund grants to eligible public libraries would result in the proration of grants provided to all recipients.

During FY17, the first year the Department awarded Infrastructure grants, the Department awarded \$4.97 million of these grants. The grants are awarded on a competitive basis. If applications for awards exceed the amount of funds available, applicants who do not rank high enough would not receive an award.

Data is not available to determine the demand for these grant funds (please see Technical Memo), including the demand resulting from 2017 Act 59 provisions (e.g., the school district membership per square mile under which a school district would qualify was increased from 13 to 16; specifically allowing for the purchase and installation of portable devices that create an area of wireless Internet coverage). Therefore, estimates regarding the utilization of available funding by the Department and impact on local units of government resulting from 2017 AB 572 is not currently determinable. The Department anticipates that the workload resulting from administering the additional grants could be absorbed within existing resources.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**