

**REPORT TO
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RULES CLEARINGHOUSE
PUBLIC LIBRARIAN CERTIFICATION
PI 6.03, WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

Statute interpreted: s. 43.09, Stats.

Statutory authority: Sections ss. 43.09 (1) and 227.11 (2) (a), Stats.

Explanation of agency authority:

Section 43.09 (1), Stats., requires the Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning in the Department of Public Instruction to issue certificates to public librarians and promulgate, under ch. 227, Stats., necessary standards for public librarians.

Section 227.11 (2) (a), Stats., gives an agency rule-making authority to interpret the provisions of any statute enforced or administered by it, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute.

Court decisions directly relevant : None

Related statute or rule: None.

Plain language analysis:

Subchapter I of ch. PI 6, Wis. Admin. Code, pertains to public librarian certification and specifies certification requirements for administrators who serve in municipal, joint, and county public libraries with certain populations. The proposed rules:

- Allow Grade II certificates to be issued to applicants holding a bachelor's degree along with a minor in library science if the minor includes or is supplemented by 3 semester credits of coursework, or the equivalent, in advanced public library administration.
- Update public librarian certification requirements for Grade II and III certification. Some of the areas of coursework have been changed to reflect the changes in public librarians' work responsibilities. The total number of credits required to be completed will still be a total of 12. However, the rule will provide flexibility as to how those 12 credits may be earned.
- Require certification renewal to include at least 10 hours of technology.
- Modify the temporary certification requirements for Grade II and III certification to reflect the new coursework required to get a public librarian certification and require at least one course to be completed annually until the certification requirements are complete.

The proposed rules will apply to individuals applying for Grade II or III regular certification and certification renewal and for individuals applying for Grade II and III temporary certification upon the effective date of this rule.

Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulations: None.

Comparison with rules in adjacent states:

Michigan and Iowa have public librarian certification programs that are similar to Wisconsin's. Among the features of their certification programs:

- Certification of the directors of public libraries is required in both states. Michigan also has staffing standards that require selected staff in libraries, in addition to the director, to be certified.
- Both of the certification programs have multiple levels of certification based on the populations of the communities served.
- Both of the certification programs require specified educational attainments and additional library courses based on grade level.
- Both of the certification programs require initial certification and recertification at specified time intervals.
- The certification programs in Michigan and Iowa require that libraries have certified staff as condition of receiving state funds.

Illinois doesn't have a state certification program; each public library system establishes its own rules for membership requirements.

The certification program in Minnesota is voluntary for library employees.

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

To equip public library directors with the knowledge and skills needed in the changing environment of public library service.

Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact report: N/A

Anticipated costs incurred by private sector: N/A

Effect on small business:

The proposed rules will have no significant economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1) (a), Stats.

Agency contact person (including email and telephone):

Michael Cross, Director, Public Library Development, (608) 267-9225, michael.cross@dpi.wi.gov.

Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

The department will publish a hearing notice in the *Administrative Register* which will include this information.

Agency procedure for promulgation:

Notice to Legislative Council pursuant to s. 227.15, Stats., and proceeding under the ten day notice/hearing process pursuant to ss. 227.16 to 227.18, Stats.

Description of any forms (attach copies if available): None.