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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LIBRARIES - STATE AID TO LIBRARIES

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Metts, Nesselbush, Sosnowski, and Quezada

Date Introduced: February 13, 2019

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 29-6-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 29-6 entitled "State Aid to  
2 Libraries" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **29-6-2. Public library services.**

4 (a) For each city or town, the state's share to support local public library services shall be  
5 equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of both the amount appropriated and expended in the  
6 second preceding fiscal year by the city or town from local tax revenues and funds from the  
7 public library's private endowment that supplement the municipal appropriation; provided,  
8 however, the state in any year shall not be obligated to match any amount from the endowment  
9 that exceeds six percent (6%) of the three-year (3) average market value, calculated at the end of  
10 the calendar year, of the investments in the endowment. [For distressed communities, as defined in](#)  
11 [§ 45-13-12, the state's share shall be supplemented by an amount equal to that city or town's](#)  
12 [payment of the ocean state libraries \(OSL\) annual assessment charges.](#) The amount of the grant  
13 payable to each municipality in any year in accordance with this section shall be reduced  
14 proportionately in the event that the total of those grants in any year exceeds the amount  
15 appropriated that year for the purposes of this section. Provided further, however, that the  
16 reference year for the state's share of support to be paid in the year ending June 30, 2008 shall be  
17 the third preceding year.

18 (b) Those public libraries that do not qualify for aid pursuant to the provisions of  
19 subsection (a) of this section may apply for resource sharing grants, to be used exclusively for the

1 purpose of payment of the ocean state libraries (OSL) annual assessment charges. Eligible public  
2 libraries shall apply directly to the office of library and information services for these resource  
3 sharing grants, and the grants shall be awarded to the libraries individually, rather than to the city  
4 or town. Eligible libraries must be or become members of the OSL upon receipt of the grant,  
5 serve municipalities that meet minimum standards for Rhode Island public libraries, and meet  
6 standards for member libraries of the library of Rhode Island (LORI) network.

7 (c) Provided, that notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter to the contrary, the  
8 state's share to support local public library services shall also include funding to the Pontiac Free  
9 Library in the city of Warwick for said library's participation in the ocean state libraries (OSL).  
10 Such funding shall be provided regardless of whether the city of Warwick appropriates funds  
11 from local tax revenues to said library. The amount of said state support shall be equal to the  
12 average of the amount appropriated by the city of Warwick to each library in said municipality  
13 for participation in the OSL program, in accordance with the provisions of and formulas set forth  
14 in subsection (a). Provided, further, that in the event the city of Warwick appropriates funds from  
15 local tax revenues for the Pontiac Free Library, then the amount of the state's share to said library  
16 shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) for any year in which such  
17 calculation is applicable.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1           This act would increase the state's share to support local public library services in  
2 distressed communities, by an amount equal to the amount paid by the distressed city or town into  
3 the ocean state libraries (OSL) annual assessment charges.  
4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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