

VI. Legislation, Policies, and Guidelines

A. Legislation – Code Cleanup

Idaho Code 67-3704 requires state agencies to review their “enabling statutes and associated code sections” for obsolete, outdated, and unnecessary code. ICfL staff have recommended that Idaho Code 33-2612 through 33-2619 be eliminated. These outdated sections apply to regional library systems. Regional library systems that have not existed for over forty years. The code follows:

33-2612. Regional library systems — Purpose — Boundaries. It is the purpose of this act to provide a method by which the library boards which govern Idaho’s libraries, now or hereafter established in accordance with the Idaho Code, may contract to form regional library systems, in order to provide improved library and information services for residents of a multi-county region. The boundaries for library regions in Idaho shall be established by the Idaho board of library commissioners.

33-2613. Definitions. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Library board" means the five (5) citizens appointed, or elected, to govern a public library, a school community library, or a library district, in accordance with chapters 26 and 27, title 33, Idaho Code.

(2) "Participating board" or "participating library" means a board or library or district which is cooperating and participating in a regional library system.

(3) "Region" means that geographic area, with boundaries established by the board of library commissioners, wherein library units are encouraged to work together.

(4) "Regional system" means two (2) or more library boards formally contracting a system approved by the board of library commissioners, officially designated as a regional library system under this act, and therein working together in specific efforts to extend and improve library services to their resident constituents.

(5) "System board" means the governing board comprised of representatives of library boards in a regional system, and which is authorized to direct and plan library service for a regional system to the extent and in the manner provided by this act.

33-2614. Petition for establishment. Any two (2) or more library boards may petition the board of library commissioners for the establishment of a regional system. Such petition shall be prepared in cooperation with the state librarian, on forms provided by the commission for libraries, and shall include but shall not be limited to the following information:

(1) A statement of purpose and an outline of the proposed program of the regional system.

(2) A list of the participating libraries, with a listing of the current tax levy and budget of each such participant; the names and addresses of the members of each library board, and a letter or resolution from each such board regarding participation in the regional system.

(3) A list of the counties in the geographic region as a whole, the number of persons who are within taxing districts supporting existing libraries, and the number of persons outside such districts but within a county in the region, and thus potentially eligible for service from the regional system being established.

(4) Proposed number of persons to be on the initial system board of directors.

(5) Proposed headquarters for the regional system, accompanied by a copy of a resolution by the governing authority for that library approving its designation as headquarters and, if a member of

the staff of the headquarters is to be the administrator of the system, including approval of such designation.

The board of library commissioners shall consider any petition presented to it as provided in this act, and if it approves such petition it shall adopt a resolution officially designating such particular regional library system, describing the territory thereof, and designating the headquarters and the initial number of directors for the system board.

33-2615. System board of directors. Each regional system shall be governed by a board of directors, to be selected by and from the governing boards of the participating libraries. Initially, as the system is formed, each participating library shall be entitled to one (1) representative on the system board, and those libraries legally serving a population base of more than ten thousand (10,000) shall also be entitled to a second representative.

Within two (2) weeks after receiving notice of approval of a petition for establishment, as provided for under this act, the board of each participating library shall select its representative or representatives, and certify the names and addresses of such representatives to the state librarian.

As additional libraries, now or hereafter established, petition to join the system, the board shall not exceed twenty-five (25) in number. When the board members total twenty-five (25), or earlier with the unanimous agreement of the participating boards, the system board shall develop a plan for equitable rotation of trustees, while retaining representation from a library in each county. The designated headquarters for the system shall always have representation on the board.

At their first meeting the members of the system board shall divide themselves by lot into terms of one (1) to five (5) years. Thereafter, all vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments, and appointments to complete an unexpired term shall be for the residue of the term only.

No member of any system board shall serve on the system board for more than five (5) consecutive years, and in no event shall service on the system board exceed the term of office of the incumbent on the governing board of the participating library which he represents.

The system board shall annually elect from its membership a chairman and such other officers as it may deem necessary to conduct the affairs of the system.

Members of the system board may receive from the regional system their actual and necessary expenses while engaged in business of said system.

33-2616. Powers and duties of the system board. The system board shall serve as a liaison agency between the participating libraries and their governing bodies and library boards. The system board shall make such bylaws, rules and regulations as may be necessary for its own government and that of the regional system, none of which shall deprive any participating library board of any of its powers or property.

The system board shall have the following powers and responsibilities, all of which relate to the functioning of the regional system and the management and control of its funds and property;

- (1) To develop a long-range plan of service for the regional system, and annually to submit to the board of library commissioners any changes in said long-range plan, and a detailed plan of proposed system development and service for the following year.
- (2) To provide improved library service for residents of the regional system, in cooperation with participating libraries, and to this end to purchase books and other library materials, supplies and equipment, for the system services, and to employ such personnel as the system board finds necessary.
- (3) To set the administrator's hours and rate of compensation for regional system duties, and to delegate such administrative powers as the board deems in the best interest of the system.
- (4) To enter into contracts to receive service from or to give service to other libraries, or agencies, within the state or interstate, and to file copies of such contracts with the board of library commissioners.
- (5) To be a public corporation, as is provided for library districts, and to contract in the name of the "Board of directors of the regional library system, Idaho" and in that name to sue and be sued and to take any action authorized by law.
- (6) To acquire by purchase, lease, or otherwise, and to own and hold real and personal property and to construct buildings for the use of the regional system, and to sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of property real or personal when no longer required by the system, and to insure the real and personal property of the system.
- (7) To have control of the expenditure of all funds of the regional system, to accept by gift or donation any funds and real or personal property under such terms as may be a condition of the gift.
- (8) To exercise such other powers, not inconsistent with law, necessary for the effective use and management of the regional system.

33-2617. Finance of regional systems — Budgets — Participating and nonparticipating units. Each regional system may be financed by any combination of available funds, federal, state, local, public and/or private. Counties, cities and library districts are hereby authorized and empowered to join in the creation, development, operation and maintenance of regional systems, and to appropriate and allocate funds for the support of such systems. All funds collected or contributed for the support of each regional system shall be controlled and administered under the direction of the system board, following procedures outlined in the library district statutes, and as directed by the board of library commissioners.

- (1) Participating Units. Participating boards shall continue to control the funds appropriated or contributed for the support of the participating libraries, but may expend all or any part thereof for library services to be furnished by the regional system. Each participating board shall prepare its own annual budget as required by the Idaho Code, and said budget may include anticipated revenues or expenditures for regional system services. Tax levies made pursuant to each such budget shall be certified as provided by law.
- (2) System Budget. Each system board shall prepare a preliminary budget for the system for the coming year, and shall by the last day of April forward said budget to the boards of participating libraries. This budget shall be published, and a hearing held thereon before the last day of May.
- (3) Nonparticipating Areas. The system board shall also prepare a list of those areas within each county of the library region wherein public libraries, library districts, school-community libraries, or association libraries are not maintained as authorized in the Idaho Code. Such lists shall be forwarded to the board of library commissioners and to the board

of county commissioners of each affected county. The system board shall include in its preliminary budget an estimate of the kinds of services which the system could provide to those areas without established libraries, and the cost of such services, and shall forward this to the appropriate boards of county commissioners.

33-2618. Addition to or withdrawal from a regional system. (1) After the establishment of a regional system as provided in this act, the board of any library which is not a part of the system, and which is within the boundaries of a library region as established by the Idaho board of library commissioners, may petition the board of library commissioners for addition to the regional system.

Petitions for addition shall be prepared and processed as provided in this act for initial petitions, except that prior approval in writing shall be obtained by the petitioning board from the regional system board, and shall be attached to the petition when it is submitted to the board of library commissioners.

(2) After the establishment of a regional system as provided in this act, a participating library board may petition the board of library commissioners for withdrawal from the system. A petition for withdrawal must be received by the board of library commissioners at least sixty (60) days before the end of the fiscal year of the system.

All assets of a participating library remain the property of that library, and if a unit withdraws from a system the disposal of the joint assets of the system shall be determined by the board of library commissioners, who shall give consideration to such items as the amount of funds raised from each unit of the system, and the ability of the units to make further use of such property or equipment for library purposes.

33-2619. Administration of act by board of library commissioners. The Idaho board of library commissioners shall administer the provisions of this act, and shall adopt such rules as are necessary for approval of regional system petitions, review and amendment of regional system plans and contracts, and such other matters as the board of library commissioners may deem advisable.