

Legislative Crunch Time  
Funding TexShare &  
TexQuest

Texas Library Association  
[www.txla.org/advocate](http://www.txla.org/advocate)



Libraries ARE  
Public Education

[Texline](#) 305, April 29, 2015

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### Conference Committee Process on HB 1 (The State's Appropriations Bill)

A select committee of key senators and representatives is meeting to finalize negotiations on the state budget. These lawmakers form the Conference Committee on HB 1 (the state budget), and they will hammer out differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget.

While both versions of the budget already contain important funding for library programs and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, two key points must be resolved: 1) the additional funding requested for TexShare/TexQuest (i.e., "Shared Digital Content" exceptional item request) and 2) a targeted salary adjustment request made by the agency for certain staff positions.

**The key point for library advocates:**

**We are urging committee members to [accept the House version of the budget.](#)**

### TAKE ACTION TODAY: DO TWO THINGS

**1. Contact Your Own Legislators.** If either serves on the Conference Committee (see list below), ask him/her to work with colleagues to fund needed library programs by **ACCEPTING THE HOUSE VERSION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE STATE LIBRARY (ARTICLE 1)**. If your legislators (representative and senator) do not serve on the Conference Committee, ask them to speak with colleagues on the Conference Committee to urge funding for library programs by **ACCEPTING THE HOUSE VERSION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE STATE LIBRARY (ARTICLE 1)**.

**2. Contact members of the Conference Committee.** Ask them to fund needed library programs by **ACCEPTING THE HOUSE VERSION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE STATE LIBRARY (ARTICLE 1)**. See their contact information below.

The priority message for library advocates at this time:

**Urge adoption of the House version of the budget proposal for the State Library (Article 1) which provides \$6 million in funding for the Shared Digital Content Exceptional Item (this is the item that covers additional funding for TexShare and TexQuest) and the \$900,000 salary adjustment request.**

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## Budget Conference Committee

### Senate

Jane Nelson (Grapevine): [Jane.Nelson@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:Jane.Nelson@senate.state.tx.us); 512-463-0112  
Juan Hinojosa (McAllen): [Juan.Hinojosa@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:Juan.Hinojosa@senate.state.tx.us); 512-463-0120  
Joan Huffman (Houston): [Joan.Huffman@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:Joan.Huffman@senate.state.tx.us); 512-463-0117  
Charles Schwertner (Bryan): [Charles.Schwertner@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:Charles.Schwertner@senate.state.tx.us); 512-463-0105  
Lois Kolkhorst (Brenham): [Lois.Kolkhorst@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:Lois.Kolkhorst@senate.state.tx.us); 512-463-0118

### House

John Otto (Dayton): [John.Otto@house.state.tx.us](mailto:John.Otto@house.state.tx.us); 512-463-0570  
Sylvester Turner (Houston): [Sylvester.Turner@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Sylvester.Turner@house.state.tx.us); 512-463-0554  
Larry Gonzales (Round Rock): [Larry.Gonzales@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Larry.Gonzales@house.state.tx.us); 512-463-0670  
Trent Ashby (Lufkin): [Trent.Ashby@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Trent.Ashby@house.state.tx.us); 512-463-0508  
Sarah Davis (Houston): [Sarah.Davis@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Sarah.Davis@house.state.tx.us); 512-463-0389

## Contacting Your Own Legislators

### [EMAIL LEGISLATORS](#)

### [CALL LEGISLATORS](#)

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**MESSAGE: Accept the House version of the budget for the State Library and Archives Commission (Article 1). We must have Shared Digital Content funded.**

## Talking Points

### General Talking Points

- In 2011, funding for statewide library programs was cut by over 90%. General Revenue at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission was reduced by 65% (over \$25 mil). Today, funding for the agency remains below the 2011 level.
- Even if ALL of the State Library's exceptional items are funded, the agency would still be 18% BELOW its funding level prior to 2011!! Support libraries by continuing to rebuild library services this session!

**Shared Digital Content (TexShare/TexQuest) Talking Points.** [See additional information.](#)

- \$6 million in state funds builds digital educational collections throughout Texas. Through TexShare (for public and college library users) & TexQuest (for K-12 public schools), libraries support homework completion, college preparation, research, job searching, test preparation & instruction.
- Digital content through our state's libraries form an efficient and effective infrastructure that supports education and economic development throughout Texas.
- With millions of Texans making hundreds of millions of searches and uses of these resources, we know that TexShare and TexQuest support learning and business activity at all levels.
- This program leverages the purchasing power of the state and reaps enormous savings. A conservative Return on Investment (ROI) for this service shows that, for every \$1 spent, taxpayers gain \$8 of valuable resources.
- Texas libraries carry out the state's priorities of educating the public, supporting workers and economic vitality, and promoting literacy at all levels. In this knowledge-based economy, digital resources, educational programs, and information services are critical.

**Targeted Salary Adjustment at TSLAC Talking Points.** [See additional information.](#)

- \$900,000 addresses salary deficiencies.
- The 65% loss of GR in 2011 created systemic problems from which the agency has not yet recovered.
- 85% of staff is below the mid-point of the state salary range.
- The request would bring 72 positions to mid-point of state salary range.

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## **HOUSE AND SENATE TSLAC BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

The State Library and Archives Commission budget is found in Article 1 of the State Appropriations Bill (HB1).

Both the House and Senate versions of the budget fund the base budget (amount needed for continuation of current services at current level).

Of the Exceptional Items Requests (these items are the funding requests an agency makes for additional funds for existing or new programs),

- Both the House and Senate provide funding for the agency's e-archives request.
- Neither funded the workforce development items
- The House funded \$6 million of the agency's request for additional funds for TexShare/TexQuest but the Senate did not.

- The House prioritized (but did not fund) the \$900,000 TSLAC requested for salary adjustments; the Senate did not fund this item
- The remaining Exceptional Items (records management positions and other agency needs) were acknowledged (but not uniformly prioritized) in the budget proposals.

**The priority for library advocates at this time:**

**Urge adoption of the House version of the budget proposal for the State Library which provided \$6 million in funding for the Shared Digital Content Exceptional Item (this is the item that covers additional funding for TexShare and TexQuest) and the \$900,000 salary adjustment request.**

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**RESOURCES**

- [A one-page handout on TLA's Budget Priorities](#)
- [A one-page handout on the funding request for Shared Digital Content \(TexShare and TexQuest\)](#)
- [A one-page on the funding request for Targeted Salary Adjustments](#)
- Click on [TLA's Advocate!](#) site for links to legislator look-up tools and other resources.
- See TLA's advocacy page for additional information on contacting legislators:  
<http://www.txla.org/advocacy-how-to>

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***Thank you for your support and passion for libraries.  
Texas libraries need your voice!***

***We also offer our thanks to Gale Cengage Learning, EBSCO Information Services, and LearningExpress, LLC. for their support of library advocacy.***

***Texline*** is produced by the Texas Library Association. It is published as needed to provide information on state and other policy matters related to libraries. For additional information, send an email to Gloria Meraz, Director of Communications, [gloriam@txla.org](mailto:gloriam@txla.org).

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