



Libraries ARE
Public Education

[Texline 304](#), March 31, 2015

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CURRENT STATUS OF STATE FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

At this time, the House Appropriations Committee has completed its version of the state budget (HB 1), and the House is debating the bill today.

The Senate Finance Committee will very soon finalize its version of the budget (SB 2). The measure will then go before the full Senate for final approval.

Once each chamber approves its version of the State Appropriations Bill (i.e., the state budget; HB 1/ SB 2), the Legislature will then create a Budget Conference Committee to reconcile any differences between the two versions. This will be the last opportunity for library advocates to promote funding for library services.

Generally, lawmakers serving on this Conference Committee will only consider items that were funded or were placed in the budget “wish list,” which is known as Article XI. Article XI is the portion of the state budget in which lawmakers can place items that are not funded but are priority areas for funding should additional state money become available. While many items in Article XI are not funded, library advocates have been successful in the past of getting some Article XI library items funded during the conference committee process.

TAKE ACTION

[EMAIL LEGISLATORS TODAY](#)

[CALL LEGISLATORS TODAY](#)

State Library and Archives Commission Budget (contained in Article I) RECOMMENDATIONS

Texas House of Representatives

Base Budget (amount for continuation of current services at current level): fully funded

Exceptional Items (These are the **additional** funding requests – shared digital content and workforce funding – that library advocates have been promoting all session.)

Library Programs Exceptional Items Requests

ADOPTED: Shared Digital Content (\$6 million/biennium); \$400K in staff funding was not included

NOT ADOPTED: Workforce Development Training for Libraries (\$550,000/biennium)

Other Agency (TSLAC) Exceptional Items Requests

ADOPTED: E-archives program (\$900,000/biennium)

Article XI: Salary adjustments for agency staff (\$900,000/biennium)

NOT ADOPTED: Local Records Management Staff (\$400,000/biennium)

Article XI: Agency accounting system (\$500,000/biennium)

State Senate (as of today)

Base Budget (amount for continuation of current services at current level): fully funded

Exceptional Items (These are the **additional** funding requests – shared digital content and workforce funding – that library advocates have been promoting all session.)

Library Programs Exceptional Items Requests

Article XI: Shared Digital Content (\$6.4 million/biennium)

NOT ADOPTED: Workforce Development Training for Libraries (\$550,000/biennium)

Other Agency (TSLAC) Exceptional Items Requests

ADOPTED: E-archives program (\$706,593/biennium)

NOT ADOPTED: Salary adjustments for agency staff (\$900,000/biennium)

NOT ADOPTED: Local Records Management Staff (\$400,000/biennium)

ADOPTED: Agency accounting system (\$326,594/biennium)

Funding Chart

Exceptional Items	Amt Requested / biennium	House Decision	Senate Decision
Shared Digital Content (TexShare/TexQuest)	\$6.4 million	\$6 million ADOPTED	Article XI
Library Workforce Training	\$550,000	NOT ADOPTED	NOT ADOPTED
E-Archives	\$900,000	\$9K ADOPTED	\$706,593 ADOPTED
Staff Salary Increases	\$900,000	Article XI	NOT ADOPTED
Records Management Staff	\$500,000	NOT ADOPTED	NOT ADOPTED
Accounting System	\$500,000	Article XI	\$326,594 ADOPTED

About the Budget Conference Committee

The Budget Conference Committee will not be named until both Legislative Chambers (House and Senate) pass their respective versions of the budget and have “forwarded” on these versions to the other chamber. Typically, the Budget Conference Committee is named sometime between mid April to early May.

We do not yet know who will serve on the Conference Committee.

As soon as it is named, TLA will send out the information to members. Typically, both chair persons (i.e., Sen. Jane Nelson and Rep. John Otto) serve on the Committee. Usually, the Committee is composed of 10 members, five from each chamber.

Our Advocacy for the Rest of the Session

Our efforts should focus on reaching these key members either directly or by asking our own senators and representatives to contact them (i.e., their colleagues serving on the Conference Committee) on behalf of libraries.

Our Message:

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

Shared Digital Content: \$6.4 million to build digital educational collections. Through TexShare (for public and college library users) & TexQuest (for K-12 public schools), libraries support education and economic development through shared digital content.

Note: 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!

TAKE ACTION

[EMAIL LEGISLATORS TODAY](#)

[CALL LEGISLATORS TODAY](#)

- 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 [Workforce Development Training for Libraries](#)
- 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>

WHO REPRESENTS ME?

Click on the button below. You can find your state senator, representative, and State Board of Education member.



For the most accurate data, include your full 9-digit zip code.

SBEC Hearing

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) met on March 27. The meeting was rescheduled from an earlier date (March 6), when the meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

One of the agenda items for this meeting concerned a petition to reconsider the existing two-year teaching experience requirement for a school librarian certificate.

SBEC had initiated a discussion on this item last fall in response to a public petition from an individual who, while having received a master's degree and school librarian training, did not possess the requisite two-year classroom teaching experience.

To address her petition, SBEC and TEA staff initiated the rule-making process, which is the regulatory and administrative process needed to change any such requirement, as it is codified in the State's *Administrative Code*.

The first step in this process was bring together a stakeholder group to discuss the matter and to make recommendations to TEA and SBEC. The Texas Library Association was asked to submit

potential candidates for the stakeholder group. TLA nominated several school librarians and educators. The final list of those invited to the stakeholder meeting were: Jane Claes, Elizabeth Philippi, Julie Briggs, Jennifer LaBoon, Becky Calzada, Dianna Jackson, Cristal Isaacks, Nicole Cruz, Len Bryan, and Janae Pierce.

This stakeholder group met on Nov. 13, 2014 in Austin. The group discussed the current requirement of two creditable years of teaching experience for issuance of the Standard School Librarian Certificate, including potential revisions to [19 TAC 239.60 \(4\)](#) and options for satisfying the two years of creditable teaching experience requirement. The consensus was that there should be no change to the teaching experience requirement.

This recommendation was brought before SBEC as a motion to discontinue the rule-making process (which would effectively leave the current two-year teaching requirement in place).

SBEC members heard from many constituents and school librarians on the matter. The overwhelming majority of feedback supported the two-year teaching requirement. The testimony of librarians at the March 27 hearing was impressive and provided board members with valuable insights into the diverse teaching role of school librarians.

SBEC members unanimously supported school librarians and voted to maintain the two year teaching requirement (by discontinuing the rule-making process).

TLA thanks the following:

Julie Briggs, Christine Van Hamersveld, Cindy Buchanan, Irene Kistler, and Wendy Hawk. We also offer our thanks to Leah Mann and Tracy Rutan (who traveled for both hearing dates) and Robin Stout and Donna Kearley – all four of whom provided oral testimony on March 27 hearing.

- See [TLA Letter](#)
- See [TASL Letter](#)

Bill List of Legislation TLA is Monitoring

To see the full text of these bills, go to [Bill Search](#), click the bill number button, enter the bill number (e.g., HB 1 or SB 21), and click search.

- HB 1 (Otto)/ SB 2 (Nelson) – State Appropriations Bills. Last Action: House considering on 2nd reading (3/31); In Senate Finance Committee.
- HB 100 (Zerwas, et al.) – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund capital projects in institutions of higher education. Last Action (3/31): Committee report sent to Calendars.
- HB 245 (Longoria) – Relating to an educator’s lunch period. Last Action (3/30): Referred to Public Education.
- HB 810 (White) – Relating to the employment of persons with professional qualification as public school classroom teachers. Last Action (3/26): Left pending in Public Education Subcommittee.

- HB 1475 (Aycock, et al) – Telecommunications Bill: To continue current state special pricing program for institutions of higher education, libraries, public schools, and non-profit medical centers. Last Action (3/24): Referred to Public Education.
- HB 1799 (Thompson) – The uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act. Last Action (3/16): Referred to Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence.
- HB 3127 (King, Ken) – Relating to the authority of certain telecommunications providers to commit to making infrastructure network improvements in exchange for support from the universal service fund. Last Action (3/23): Referred to State Affairs.
- HB 3492 (Munoz) – Relating to a permanent endowment to support capital improvements at public junior colleges. Last Action (3/18): Referred to Higher Education.
- SB 21 (Zaffirini) - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund capital projects in institutions of higher education. Last Action (1/26): Referred to Higher Education.
- SB 150 (Seliger) - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund capital projects in institutions of higher education. Last Action (4/1): Hearing set in Higher Education.
- SB 1188 (Seliger) – Relating to a study on the feasibility of requiring certain researchers to make research publication available to the public. Last Action (3/17): Referred to Higher Education.
- SB 1609 (Huffines) – Relating to relocating the Legislative Reference Library (3/23): Referred to Business & Commerce
- SB 1668 (Zaffirini) – Relating to creating an online searchable central grant database. Last Action (3/23): Referred to Business and Commerce.
- HB 2796 (King, Ken) – Relating to the authority of certain telecommunications providers to commit to making infrastructure network improvements in exchange for support from the universal service fund; adding provisions subject to a criminal penalty. Last Action (3/16): Referred to State Affairs.

Federal Legislation

We need library advocates to speak out for federal library issues as well. The American Library Association has posted information about needed funding for school libraries and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Go to [ALA Action Page](#) for additional information and to act on federal issues.

Ensure the Future of School Library Funding

Tell your Senators to co-sponsor the SKILLS Act! The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides federal funding for K-12 education programs. Reauthorization of legislation of this nature will determine federal education policy for the coming decade, and it is imperative that dedicated funding for school library programs be included. We need you to contact both senators from your state at their DC office and let them know how critical school libraries are in improving our education system. Ask them to support dedicated funding for effective school library programs under ESEA by co-sponsoring S.312.

Support Federal Funding for IMLS

As was reported through TLA two weeks ago, the ALA was calling for advocates to contact members of Congress to sign onto a funding letter for library funding. Disappointingly, the Institute of

Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was flagged this week as a possible program to “zero out” in the proposed House of Representative’s Concurrent Resolution on the Budget. To learn more about federal funding for IMLS, go to: [ALA Dispatch](#).

Taking the Capitol by Storm: Libraries, Legislation, and Leadership

9 am - 5pm, Tuesday, April 14

With the 84th Legislature in full swing, join colleagues and experts as you study key library issues and become an articulate and knowledgeable advocate with decision-makers. The first half of the preconference is an intensive training and skill-building workshop.

The second half is an afternoon of actual visits with legislative offices coordinated through TLA. Participants will earn a badge of honor to wear throughout conference. Lunch will be provided.

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.

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