

PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICTS

Goal: *To allow for the creation of public library districts in South Dakota*

Details:

- Existing district laws need to be modified to include the voluntary formation of cross-jurisdictional public library districts, subject to a vote of impacted voters
- Libraries with expanding population bases that cross taxing governance authorities would be allowed to develop appropriate bases of support

Funding:

- Because of the voluntary nature of this legislation, no costs would be incurred unless a district was proposed and passed by a vote of the impacted voters

Background:

- Library districts are possible in more than 15 states, with the purpose of using stable funding to expand library services into rural, unincorporated, and fringe development populations
- South Dakota law provides for the formation of districts for community services such as ambulance, fire protection, business, school, sanitary, and water, which are funded by multi-city, city-county, and multi-county jurisdictions
- Libraries have been restricted in attempts to provide sustainable services to populations that cross multiple jurisdictional lines

