



Texas State Library and Archives Commission

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S.B. 913 Brimer (McClendon)

Summary

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) works to improve the availability and quality of library services across the state, and to preserve and provide access to historic Texas documents. To accomplish this mission, TSLAC has three functions: providing financial and consulting assistance to individual libraries and regional library systems to promote library development and resource sharing; providing direct library services to Texans with disabilities; and ensuring access to important Texas documents by coordinating state and local records management, and acquiring and preserving archival documents. TSLAC operated with a budget of \$28 million in fiscal year 2006 and employs 188 staff, most of whom work in Austin at the agency's headquarters and at the State Records Center.

Senate Bill 913 continues TSLAC for 12 years and contains all of the Sunset Commission's recommendations to help the agency modernize its programs and more effectively target its limited resources. The list below summarizes the major provisions of S.B. 913, and a more detailed discussion follows.

Sunset Provisions

1. Continue the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for 12 years.
2. Restructure regional library systems' funding to provide flexibility to meet changing conditions and encourage innovation.
3. Eliminate state certification of county librarians.
4. Authorize TSLAC in law to provide direction and leadership to collaborative efforts to develop online access to historical resources.
5. Require TSLAC and the Texas Education Agency to develop a joint study of school library needs, and to assess which needs each agency should address.

Provisions Added by the Legislature

6. Update and redefine TSLAC's existing grant programs.
7. Require TSLAC to implement a program of grants to aid local libraries.
8. Allow library systems to accept money other than TSLAC funding.
9. Require TSLAC to take custody of certain records in case of an irresolvable ownership dispute.

Sunset Provisions

1. Continue the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for 12 years.

The bill continues TSLAC as an independent agency for 12 years.

2. Restructure regional library systems' funding to provide flexibility to meet changing conditions and encourage innovation.

Senate Bill 913 removes the system funding formula from statute and requires TSLAC to adopt a new formula in rule that provides flexibility, but continues to ensure funding for basic system support services. The bill requires TSLAC to distribute a portion of system funds in competitive grants aimed at increasing innovation and targeting state and federal goals, and requires grant recipients to report best practices and performance outcomes.

3. Eliminate state certification of county librarians.

The bill removes the requirement to certify county librarians from TSLAC's statute, discontinuing state regulation of individual librarians and leaving the agency to focus on the broader oversight and support of library facilities statewide.

4. Authorize TSLAC in law to provide direction and leadership to collaborative efforts to develop online access to historical resources.

The bill authorizes TSLAC to promote, and provide leadership to, collaboration between a wide range of Texas institutions to develop online access to digitized cultural resources. The bill clarifies TSLAC's ability to include museums in the collaboration, which hold many important resources.

5. Require TSLAC and the Texas Education Agency to develop a joint study of school library needs, and to assess which needs each agency should address.

The bill requires TSLAC and the Texas Education Agency to develop a joint study of school library needs and to assess which needs each agency should address. The study must be presented to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and the appropriate oversight committees in the House and Senate. The Legislature modified the study's due date from September 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

Provisions Added by the Legislature

6. Update and redefine TSLAC's existing grant programs.

The Legislature added a provision to the bill that updates existing law to reflect current practice by requiring TSLAC to establish grant programs using state, federal or other funds, and redefines several types of grants the agency may award.

7. Require TSLAC to implement a program of grants to aid local libraries.

The Legislature added a provision to the bill that requires TSLAC to implement a program of direct grants to local libraries, which TSLAC already does through its Loan Star Libraries program. The bill also requires grant recipients to report to the agency information relating to best practices and performance outcomes.

8. Allow library systems to accept money other than TSLAC funding.

The Legislature added a provision to S.B. 913 that allows library systems to receive and spend outside funding, in addition to the system operation grants provided by TSLAC, and to retain certain funds for use in future fiscal years.

9. Require TSLAC to take custody of certain records in case of an irresolvable ownership dispute.

The Legislature added a provision to the bill that requires TSLAC to take custody of any record that is at least 50 years old and involved in an irresolvable ownership dispute between an institution of higher education and a county.

Fiscal Implication Summary _____

Senate Bill 913 will not have a significant fiscal impact to the State.