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To: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: Joanna Dolan, Principal Research Analyst

Re: State Library Board and Regional Systems of Cooperating Libraries

Statutory Purpose

State Library Board

The State Library Board (State Board), as established in KSA 2015 Supp. 75-2546, is responsible for overseeing the regional systems of cooperating libraries (regional systems). Specifically, the State Board is required to:

- Advocate for statewide library services and resources, encouraging cooperation among libraries and promoting and encouraging innovative library services;
- Advise and counsel the State Librarian on policies and management and the state library strategic plan;
- Review and approve the annual plans of regional systems of cooperating libraries;
- Perform such duties and functions as required by law; and
- Recommend statewide priorities for inter-library cooperation and resource sharing.

Regional Systems

Regional systems of cooperating libraries, which are two or more libraries cooperating in a manner approved by the State Board, are created by petition submitted by one or more library board(s) to the State Library Board for approval. A regional system of cooperating libraries may cover a territory of one or more counties. The regional systems are created to provide adequate library services to all citizens of the state through joint planning and financing of library services. See KSA 75-2547 through KSA 2015 Supp. 75-2549.

Composition

State Board

The State Board, as required by KSA 2015 Supp. 75-2546, has 14 members, 11 of which are appointed by the Governor and 3 who are *ex officio*, non-voting members. Of the 11 members appointed by the Governor, 7 must be professional librarians, with one selected from each of the following categories:

- Public librarians;
- School librarians;
- Regents' librarians;
- Community college librarians;
- Private college librarians;
- Regional library systems librarians; and
- Special librarians.

Names of nominees from these categories are obtained from the professional organizations by the State Librarian, who provides the names to the Governor.

The other four members appointed by the Governor are appointed as follows:

- One who is a trustee of a public library;
- Two who represent the general public;
- One member who is a qualified member of the Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs.

The three *ex officio*, non-voting members of the State Board are:

- The Executive Officer of the Board of Regents or designee,
- The Commissioner of Education or designee; and
- The State Librarian.

Regional Systems

The board of a regional system is made up of:

- One or more representatives selected by each of the boards of the libraries participating in the system; and
- One or more representatives appointed by the Governor to represent territory within the regional system that is not within the district of a participating library board.

KSA 2015 Supp. 75-2550, which establishes the composition of the regional systems is the subject of HB 2380, heard by the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs on February 16, 2016.

Financial Authority

State Board

Federal funds administered by the State Librarian or the State Board may be used in support of any one or more regional system in compliance with the federal legislation. Additionally, funds appropriated by the State Legislature that are administered by the State Librarian for the promotion of library services may be used to pay all or part of the expenses and equipment of any regional system. See KSA 2015 Supp. 75-2551.

Regional Systems

Each regional system board is authorized to levy no more than 3/4 mill of tax on all of the taxable property within the boundaries of the regional system that is not within a district supporting a library with funds of the district. Any taxing district that regularly levies 1/4 mill or more of tax for the support of a public library, and has been included in a regional system, may petition to be excluded from the regional system. See KSA 2015 Supp. 75-2549 through KSA 2015 Supp. 75-2551.

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