

ASSEMBLY, No. 404

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman HECK and Assemblyman DORIA

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment and funding of federated library
2 services and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 40 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. The board of chosen freeholders of a county having a population
9 of more than 80,000 according to the latest federal census may provide
10 for the establishment of federated library services. No services shall
11 be established, however, until assented to by the legal voters of the
12 county at any election at which the question of the establishment
13 thereof shall be submitted.

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15 2. The board of chosen freeholders may submit the question of the
16 establishment of federated library services to the voters of the county
17 for adoption or rejection at any general or special election.

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19 3. The board of chosen freeholders shall cause the question to be
20 printed upon the ballots to be used at the election in substantially the
21 following form:

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23 "To vote upon the public question printed below, if in favor
24 thereof mark a cross (X) or plus (+) in the square at the left of the
25 word YES, and if opposed thereto mark a cross (X) or plus (+) in the
26 square at the left of the word NO.

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28 YES "Shall federated library services
29 including....(here enumerate the
30 services) be established in....(here
31 NO insert the name of the county) County?"

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33 4. The result of the election shall be returned and canvassed in the
34 same manner and at the same time as other elections. If a majority of
35 the votes cast on the question shall be in favor thereof, the provisions

1 of this act shall take effect in the county.

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3 5. Upon the adoption of the provisions of this act, the board of
4 chosen freeholders shall determine a sum sufficient for the
5 establishment and, annually thereafter, for the maintenance of the
6 federated library services. The sum so to be raised shall be certified
7 by the board of chosen freeholders to the county board of taxation,
8 which shall apportion the amount among the municipalities receiving
9 the benefits of the services in accordance with the provisions of
10 section 54:4-49 of the Revised Statutes and as follows:

11 a. the sum so raised among municipalities which fund a public
12 library that qualifies for per capita State aid shall be not less than
13 .000011741 of a mill per dollar on the "apportionment valuation," as
14 defined in section 54:4-49 of the Revised Statutes, except that no
15 municipality shall pay more than \$1.60 per capita;

16 b. the sum so raised among municipalities which do not fund a
17 public library that qualifies for per capita State aid or do not have a
18 contract to provide library services that qualify for per capita State aid
19 shall be not less than .000111 of a mill per dollar on the
20 "apportionment valuation," as defined in section 54:4-49 of the
21 Revised Statutes.

22 The amount thus apportioned to each municipality shall be assessed,
23 levied and collected in the same manner and at the same time as other
24 county taxes are assessed, levied and collected therein.

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26 6. Upon the adoption of the provisions of this act, the board of
27 chosen freeholders shall contract to provide federated library services
28 with an agency in the county which has been in existence and
29 providing county-wide service to public libraries for at least five years.

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31 7. The governing board of an agency which is under contract to
32 provide federated library services pursuant to section 6 of this act shall
33 have 13 members as follows:

34 a. nine shall be library directors, of which five shall be elected from
35 the member libraries to serve two-year terms and four shall be rotating
36 members, determined by dividing the county into four equal
37 geographic areas and designating one director from each of the four
38 areas in alphabetical order of the municipalities within the area, who
39 shall serve one-year terms;

40 b. two shall be trustees of member libraries, one selected by each
41 of four boards of trustees of the libraries in alphabetical order of the
42 municipalities, who shall serve one-year terms; and

43 c. two shall be appointed by the board of chosen freeholders to
44 serve two-year terms.

45 A member library may have only one representative, either a
46 director or a trustee, on the governing board at any time.

1 8. a. The ratio of funding for federated library services to funding
2 for local library services which is effective for the first tax year under
3 the provisions of this act shall be maintained in each subsequent tax
4 year.

5 b. No funds raised by this act shall be deemed as fulfilling the
6 requirement for the funding of municipal libraries pursuant to R.S.
7 40:54-8.

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9 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

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12 STATEMENT

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14 This bill provides that the board of chosen freeholders of a county
15 having a population of more than 80,000 may establish federated
16 library services upon approval by the voters of the county at any
17 election at which the question of the establishment is submitted. If the
18 question of the establishment of federated library services is approved,
19 the board of chosen freeholders would determine a sum sufficient for
20 the establishment and maintenance of the services. The bill specifies
21 that the sum raised among municipalities which fund a public library
22 that qualifies for per capita State aid shall be not less than .000011741
23 of a mill per dollar, except that no municipality shall pay more than
24 \$1.60 per capita, and the sum so raised among municipalities which do
25 not fund a public library that qualifies for per capita State aid or do not
26 have a contract to provide library services that qualify for per capita
27 State aid shall be not less than .0000111 of a mill per dollar.

28 In addition, the board of chosen freeholders is required to contract
29 to provide federated library services with an agency in the county
30 which has been in existence and offering county-wide service to public
31 libraries for at least five years. The governing board of that agency
32 shall have 13 members, nine library directors of which five shall be
33 elected and four rotating, two library trustees representing member
34 libraries, and two members appointed by the board of chosen
35 freeholders.

36 The bill specifies that the ratio of funding for federated library
37 services to funding for local library services which is effective for the
38 first tax year shall be maintained in each subsequent tax year.

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43 Provides for establishment and funding of federated library services.