

SENATE, No. 620

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 1996

By Senator SCHLUTER

1 AN ACT establishing a commission to study library consolidation and  
2 making an appropriation.

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

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. One of the critical concerns in the area of public administration  
9 is determining the most effective way to achieve economies and  
10 efficiencies in the organization and management of governmental  
11 agencies while maintaining the level of public services necessary for  
12 the well being of the citizens of the State; and

13 b. There are many possible approaches to the this issue, including  
14 the examination of those functions which appear to be similar and yet  
15 are under different agencies and governmental units, a fact which  
16 makes a reorganization of the services difficult; and

17 c. One such service which should be reviewed are the various  
18 libraries which are operated by counties, municipalities and local  
19 boards of education; and

20 d. Given the complexity of this issue, it would be in the public  
21 interest to establish a commission to study the possibility of permitting  
22 localities to consolidate library services.

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24 2. There is created a commission to be known as the "Library  
25 Consolidation Study Commission."

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27 3. The commission shall consist of 15 members to be appointed as  
28 follows: 11 public members to be appointed by the Governor with the  
29 advice and consent of the Senate, which shall include educational  
30 experts, library professionals and members of the general public; two  
31 members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President thereof; and,  
32 two members of the General Assembly, to be appointed by the Speaker  
33 thereof. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled  
34 in the same manner as the original appointments were made. Members  
35 of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be  
36 reimbursed for the necessary expenses incurred in the performance of

1 their duties as members of the commission within the limits of funds  
2 appropriated to the commission.

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4 4. The commission shall organize within 15 days after the  
5 appointment and qualification in office of its members and shall elect  
6 a chair from among its members and select a secretary who need not  
7 be a member of the commission.

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9 5. It shall be the duty of the commission to conduct a study of the  
10 local library system in New Jersey, in order to determine whether it  
11 would be prudent to permit localities to consolidate municipal and  
12 Board of Education libraries and to review and analyze the  
13 educational, fiscal, legal and jurisdictional issues which would be  
14 involved in such a consolidation.

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16 6. The commission shall be entitled to the assistance and services  
17 of the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board,  
18 bureau, commission or agency which it may require and as may be  
19 available to it for its purposes and to employ such stenographic and  
20 clerical assistants and incur traveling and other miscellaneous expenses  
21 as necessary to perform its duties and as may be within the limits of  
22 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

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24 7. The commission may meet and hold hearings at such place or  
25 places as it shall designate and shall report its findings and  
26 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature within 12  
27 months of the effective date of this act, and may accompany the same  
28 with any legislative bills which it may desire to recommend for  
29 adoption by the Legislature.

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31 8. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislature  
32 \$30,000 to effectuate the provisions of this act.

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34 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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39 This bill establishes a Library Consolidation Study Commission,  
40 which shall conduct a study of the feasibility of permitting local and  
41 school district libraries to be combined. The commission is to consist  
42 of two members of the Senate, two members of the General Assembly,  
43 and 11 public members who shall include library professionals and  
44 educational experts as well as members of the general public. The  
45 commission is to report to the Governor and the Legislature in one  
46 year. The bill appropriates \$30,000 for the work of the commission.

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3 Establishes a Library Consolidation Study Commission; appropriates

4 \$30,000.