

2016

Institute of Museum and Library Services Act (1996): Conference Proceeding 05

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CONFERENCE ITEMS, H.R. 1617

Definitions:

Need complete (all inclusive) definition of "Library" which can be used as a generic for other legislation -- a good statutory reference. The definition offered in the House bill is pretty good, just needs a little tweaking... public library receiving all funding from public sources, recommended by states. Need to add definition of "research library". [Example in telcom bill: the discounted rates for museums and libraries are based on need; McCain said not eligible if not eligible under Title III LSCA state plan.]

Reference to forward funding:

This got dropped by Senate, probably an oversight - is in House bill and current law and was in original LSTA proposal - needs to be included. In conference, we can amend the House section so that there is no lag time; get rid of 9-month gap.

Authority of Secretary of Education/Director:

Because authority over appropriations is given to the Secretary of Ed. (money goes to DOE first before being transferred to IMLS), the libraries have heard that DOE legal and budget people believe that they (DOE) will still be able to determine the budget amounts/categories and what goes in them. Need to push Senate version. Need to determine if language in Senate version provides a loophole for DOE to assume that it can develop budget recommendations. In order to clarify the DOE role, we could amend the language in both the Authorization of Appropriations and Duties and Powers of the Director sections as follows:

Sec. 214(a)(2) -- (b) Transfer - the authority of the Secretary of Education shall be limited to the transfer of any funds appropriated under the authority of paragraph (1) to the Director to enable the Director to carry out this subtitle.

Sec. 204(c), add (3) recommending a proposed budget for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Title.