White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Final Passage (1988): Report 01

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S.J. Res. 26

Authorizes and requests the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not earlier than September 1, 1989, and not later than September 30, 1991.

This will be the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The first was held in 1979. The purpose of the legislation is to assure that the federal government will continue to encourage coherent national policies for the development of our library resources. Important issues facing our library community will be addressed in a series of state level conferences which will precede a major national meeting.

Overall cost of Conference is estimated to be between $12 and $15 million. Maximum federal contribution recommended to be $5 million. Balance of total to be raised privately.

S.J. Res. 26 currently has 69 cosponsors. The only members of the Labor and Human Resources Committee who are NOT cosponsors are Senators Stafford, Weicker and Humphrey. Senator Stafford may have an amendment to forbid the use of federal library (LSCA) funds to pay for any aspect of the state or national conferences. Senator Pell will oppose such a move in that it would be contrary to states rights doctrine. States are given LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) funds to use as they see fit to. Report language will urge states not to use LSCA funds but will not prohibit this.

Probable Pell amendments attached with explanation.
AMENDMENT NO. ____________  Calendar No. ________
Purpose: To strengthen the resolution.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—100th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. J. RES. 26

To authorize and request the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not later than 1989, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on __________________________
and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENTS intended to be proposed by Mr. PELL

Viz:

1  On page 3, line 4, after "call" insert "and conduct".

2  On page 3, line 6, strike out "not later than 1989" and insert in lieu thereof "not earlier than September 1, 1989, and not later than September 30, 1991".

5  On page 4, line 24, before "State" insert "(1)".

6  On page 5, line 1, strike out "the" and insert "a".
On page 5, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(2)(A) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require any State to participate in a State or territorial conference.

On page 10, line 17, strike out "such sums as may be necessary" and insert in lieu thereof "$5,000,000".

Amend the title so as to read: "A joint resolution to authorize and request the President to call and conduct a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not earlier than September 1, 1989, and not later than September 30, 1991, and for other purposes."