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JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Sciences in 1976.

Whereas access to information and ideas is indispensable to the development of human potential, the advancement of civilization, and the continuance of enlightened self-government; and

Whereas the preservation and dissemination of information and ideas is the primary purpose and function of libraries and information centers; and

Whereas the growth and augmentation of the Nation's libraries and information centers are essential if all Americans are to have reasonable access to adequate services of libraries and information centers; and
Whereas new achievements in technology offer a potential for enabling libraries and information centers to serve the public more fully, expeditiously, and economically; and

Whereas maximum realization of the potential inherent in the use of advanced technology by libraries and information centers requires cooperation through planning for, and coordination of, the services of libraries and information centers; and

Whereas the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science is developing plans for meeting national needs for library and information services and for coordinating activities to meet those needs; and

Whereas productive recommendations for expanding access to libraries and information services will require public understanding and support as well as that of public and private libraries and information centers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) the President of the United States is authorized to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1976.

(b) (1) The purpose of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (hereinafter referred to as the "Conference") shall be to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the Nation's libraries and information centers, in accordance with the policies set forth in the preamble to this joint resolution.
(2) The conference shall be composed of, and bring together—

(A) representatives of local, statewide, and national institutions, agencies, organizations, and associations which provide library and information services to the public;

(B) representatives of educational institutions, agencies, organizations, and associations (including professional and scholarly associations for the advancement of education and research);

(C) persons with special knowledge of, and special competence with, technology as it may be used for the improvement of library and information services; and

(D) representatives of the general public.

(c) (1) The Conference shall be planned and conducted under the direction of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"). All Federal departments and agencies shall cooperate with and give assistance to the Commission in order to enable it to carry out its responsibilities under this joint resolution.

(2) In administering this joint resolution, the Commission shall—

(A) when appropriate, request the cooperation
and assistance of other Federal departments and agencies in order to carry out its responsibilities;

(B) make technical and financial assistance (by grant, contract, or otherwise) available to the States to enable them to organize and conduct conferences and other meetings in order to prepare for the Conference; and

(C) prepare and make available background materials for the use of delegates to the Conference and associated State conferences, and prepare and distribute such reports of the Conference as may be appropriate.

(d) A final report of the Conference, containing such findings and recommendations as may be made by the Conference, shall be submitted to the President not later than one hundred and twenty days following the close of the Conference. Such report shall be submitted to the Congress not later than one hundred and twenty days after the date of the adjournment of the Conference, which final report shall be made public and, within ninety days after its receipt by the President, transmitted to the Congress together with a statement of the President containing the President's recommendations with respect to such report.

(e) (1) There is hereby established an advisory committee to the Conference composed of twenty-eight members, appointed by the President, which shall advise and assist the
1 National Commission in planning and conducting the
2 Conference.
3 (2) The President is authorized to establish such other
4 advisory and technical committees as may be necessary to
5 assist the Conference in carrying out its functions.
6 (3) Members of any committee established under this
7 subsection who are not regular full-time officers or employees
8 of the United States shall, while attending to the business of
9 the Conference, be entitled to receive compensation therefor
10 at a rate fixed by the President but not exceeding $100 per
11 diem, including traveltime. Such members may, while away
12 from their homes or regular places of business, be allowed
13 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as
14 may be authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States
15 Code, for persons in the Government service employed
16 intermittently.
17 (f) For the purpose of this joint resolution, the term
18 “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Common-
19 wealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin
20 Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
21 (g) There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
22 may be necessary to carry out this joint resolution.