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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 that purpose:

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;

Whereas the preservation and dissemination of information and ideas are the primary purpose and function of the library and information services;

Whereas the economic vitality of the United States in a global economy and the productivity of the work force of the Nation rest on access to information in the postindustrial information age;

Whereas the White House Conference on Library and Information Services of 1979 began a process in which a broadly representative group of citizens made recommendations that have improved the library and information services of the Nation, and sparked the Nation's interest in the crucial role of library and information services at home and abroad;

Whereas library and information service is essential to a learning society;

Whereas social, demographic, and economic shifts of the past decade have intensified the rate of change and require that Americans of all ages develop and sustain literacy and other lifelong learning habits;

Whereas expanding technological developments offer unprecedented opportunities for application to teaching and learning and to new means to provide access to library and information services;

Whereas the growth and augmentation of the Nation's library and information services are essential if all Americans, without regard to race, ethnic background, or geographic location, are to have reasonable access to adequate information and lifelong learning;

Whereas the future of our society depends on developing the learning potential inherent in all children and youth, especially literacy, reading, research, and retrieval skills;

Whereas rapidly developing technology offers a potential for enabling libraries and information services to serve the public more fully; and

Whereas emerging satellite communication networks and other technologies offer unparalleled opportunity for access to education opportunities to all parts of the world, and to individuals who are homebound, handicapped, or incarcerated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PRESIDENT TO CALL CONFERENCE IN 1989.

The President is authorized 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.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFERENCE.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services shall be to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the library and information services of the Nation and their use by the public, in accordance with the findings set forth in the preamble to this joint resolution.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Conference shall be composed of—

(1) representatives of professional library and information personnel and individuals who support or furnish volunteer services to libraries and information services centers, from all age groups and walks of life, and members of the general public;

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

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

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

(5) representatives of Federal, State, and local governments.

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS.—In carrying out subsection (a)—

(1) one-fourth of the participants shall be selected from the library and information profession;

(2) one-fourth of the participants shall be selected from among individuals who are currently active library and information supporters, including trustees and friends groups;

(3) one-fourth shall be selected from among individuals who are Federal, State, or local government officials, and

(4) one-fourth shall be selected from among individuals who are active citizens.

(d) STATE PARTICIPATION OPTIONAL.—(1) State and territorial delegates and alternates to the national conference may participate in a respective State or territorial conference.

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

SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) DIRECTION BY COMMISSION.—The Conference shall be planned and conducted under the direction of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

(b) COMMISSION FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out this joint resolution, the Commission shall—

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

(2) 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;

(3) 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 Con-
In carrying out the provisions of this joint resolution—

(1) conduct of study activities with respect to the implications of the recommendations of the President with respect to such report.

(2) SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall be ex officio a member of the Conference on Libraries and Information Services.

(3) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The advisory committee shall have the power to appoint such subcommittees as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this joint resolution.

(4) PERSONNEL.—In carrying out the provisions of this joint resolution, the Commission is authorized to engage such personnel as may be necessary to establish, prescribe functions for, and appoint members to, such advisory and technical committees and staff as may be necessary to assist and advise the Conference in carrying out its functions.

(5) COMPENSATION.—Members of any committee established under this section who are not regular full-time Federal employees. The Advisory Committee is authorized—

(a) to establish, prescribe functions for, and appoint members to, such advisory and technical committees and staff as may be necessary to assist and advise the Conference in carrying out its functions.

(b) to provide travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as may be allowed under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons serving without pay. Such expenses may be paid by way of advances, reimbursement, or in instalments as the Commission may determine.

SEC. 4. REPORTS.

(a) Submission to President; Transmittal to Congress.—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 120 days following the close of the Conference. The final report shall be made public and, within 90 days after its receipt by the President, transmitted to the Congress together with a statement of the President containing the recommendations of the President with respect to such report.

(b) Publication and Distribution.—The Commission is authorized to publish and distribute for the Conference the reports authorized under this joint resolution. Copies of all such reports shall be provided to the depository libraries.

SEC. 5. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) Composition.—There is established an advisory committee of the Conference composed of—

(1) eight individuals designated by the Chairman of the Commission;

(2) five individuals designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives with not more than three being Members of the House of Representatives;

(3) five individuals designated by the President pro tempore of the Senate with not more than three being Members of the Senate;

(4) ten individuals appointed by the President;
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Virgin Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and American Indian Tribes.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated without fiscal year limitations $6,000,000 to carry out this joint resolution. Such sums shall remain available for obligation until expended.

APPROVED
AUG. 8 1988

Ronald Reagan