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National Commission on Libraries (1991): Correspondence 04

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United States
National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

March 28, 1990

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3901

Dear Senator Pell:

Enclosed for your consideration is a proposal to amend the Act establishing the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science ("the Commission"). The other items enclosed relate to this proposal.

Work on this proposal has been underway for some time. It is needed to permit the Commission to obtain administrative services from any Federal agency, not just the Department of Education; to clarify terms of office and voting status as commissioners change office; and to lift the twenty-year-old funding limit. These changes are especially important as the Commission plans and will conduct the July 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

The necessary discussion and clearance for this proposal have been completed. The Commission now seeks aid in identifying a suitable bill that could be amended to include the "National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act Amendments of 1990."

Thank you for considering this matter. We look forward to hearing from your office.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Martin
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: / Alexander Crary, Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To improve the operation of the United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act Amendments of 1990."

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

SEC. 2. Section 3 of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act (20 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.; hereinafter referred to as "the Act") is amended--

(1) by striking out the subsection designation "(a)"; and

(2) by striking out subsection (b).

MEMBERSHIP

SEC. 3. Section 6(a) of the Act is amended by striking out "(1) the terms of office" and all that follows through "time of appointment," and inserting in lieu thereof "(1) the term of office of any member of the Commission shall continue until the earlier of (A) the date on which the member's successor has been confirmed by the Senate, or (B) the last day of the Congress beginning after the date on which the member's appointed term of office would expire."

AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 4. Section 7 of the Act is amended to read as follows:

"AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

"SEC. 7. There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act \$777,000 for the fiscal year 1991 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year."

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect upon enactment.

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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE ACT
AMENDMENTS OF 1990

Section-by-Section Analysis

Section 2. Section 2 of the bill would amend section 3 of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act (20 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.; "the Act") to delete the provision that the Department of Education is obligated to provide administrative services to the United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science ("the Commission"). This deletion clarifies the authority of the Commission, an independent agency, to obtain administrative services from any Federal agency.

Section 3. Section 3 of the bill would amend section 6(a) of the Act to (1) delete an obsolete provision regarding terms of office beginning on July 20, 1970; and (2) authorize a member of the Commission to continue to serve on the Commission until that member's successor is confirmed by the Senate or until the last day of the Congress beginning after the date on which the member's term of office expires, whichever is earlier. This limitation on the term of office would ensure that a member whose successor had not been confirmed by the Senate could not serve indefinitely. If, for example, that member's term would otherwise have expired during the 101st Congress, that term would continue only until the end of the 102nd Congress.

Section 4. Section 4 of the bill would amend section 7 of the Act to authorize an appropriation of \$777,000 for the fiscal year 1991 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

Section 5. Section 5 of the bill would provide that the amendments contained in the bill shall take effect upon enactment.

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