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Both the House bill and the Senate amendment amend Section 202(b) of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) to require a limit on the percentage of Federal funds available for Title II construction projects. Some concern has been raised that this provision conflicts with Section 7 of LSCA which establishes a matching requirement for States receiving Title II funding. The two provisions do not conflict because they address different situations.

The provision in current law determine how much money a State must provide in order to receive Title II funding from the Federal government. The amendments to Section 202(b) mandate what percentage of Federal dollars may be used by the receipient of a grant from the State.

For example, if State X is required by current law to provide a 40% match to receive funds under Title II, it would have the same requirement under the new language. However, under existing legislation, when the State reallocates Title II funds to individual projects, there is no requirement that the project must provide a share of the funding. The amendments will now require that each project must be funded with at least 50% non-Federal funds. It is important to note that there is no limitation on the amount of State funds which go into Title II LSCA that may be used for individual construction projects.

The rationale for this requirement is that it will allow Federal funding to go further in financing construction projects and will hopefully encourage private sector involvement in raising construction funds for libraries.
The Senate amendment authorizes $2 million in funds to provide matching grants to assist Howard University enhance its endowment. The Conferees specifically intend that the University use up to $2 million of the sums appropriated annually under the Act of March 2, 1867 for endowment building purposes as provided in Title II.
The House bill directed that the states describe how they will use funds to carry out library activities to benefit the elderly, while the Senate Amendment requires that the states describe how the funds will be used to make library services more accessible to the elderly and to the handicapped. The House Amendment clarifies that while a description of the activities to be undertaken is required, the list of possible activities to be undertaken is merely illustrative.