



# PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICTS

## GOAL

To enable the creation of Public Library Districts in South Dakota. The existing districts law needs to be modified to include the voluntary formation of cross-jurisdictional public library districts, subject to a vote of the people affected. Areas previously served by the State Library would have an opportunity to address their ongoing library needs. Libraries with expanding populations that cross taxing governance authorities would be allowed to develop appropriate bases of support.

## BACKGROUND

- Library districts are legal in 17 states with the main purpose of using stabilized funding to extend library services to rural, unincorporated, and fringe development populations.
- South Dakota law already allows for the formation of districts for community services such as water, fire protection, and law enforcement that are funded by multi-city, city-county, and multi-county jurisdictions.
- Libraries have been restricted in their efforts to provide sustainable services to those populations that cross multiple governance lines.
- Possible outcomes include the pooling of resources to create a single library or a single regional library, the elimination of non-resident fees, or the ability to meet the needs of more library users by providing a broader spectrum of enhanced library services.

## FUNDING

Because of the voluntary nature of this legislation, no costs would incur unless a district was proposed and passed by a vote with the affected area(s).



South Dakota Library Association  
[www.sdlibraryassociation.org](http://www.sdlibraryassociation.org)