

**Maine State Library**  
**Testimony – Lori Fisher, State Librarian**

Second Regular Session of the 131<sup>st</sup> Maine Legislature  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

*LD 2214 – “An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025.”*  
February 21, 2024

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Lori Fisher, and I am your Maine State Librarian. I am speaking in support of the Maine State Library’s items in the FY25 Supplemental Budget, which appears on pages 73 and 74 of the General Fund Bill Language document.

***Introduction***

Established in 1837, the Maine State Library (MSL) is one of the first cultural agencies created by state government, and throughout our long history, we have had the privilege and honor of “Helping People; Making Maine Libraries Stronger; and Transforming Information into Knowledge” (our mission). The MSL staff and I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Maine, and the allocations represented in the FY25 supplemental budget request will allow us to do so.

***Initiative Requests***

***Specific initiatives where we are asking for carry-over approval:***

- **Page 73 of the General Fund Bill Language document, Sec. AAA-1: Carrying provision, Maine State Library, \$300,000**
- **Page 73 of the General Fund Bill Language document, Sec. AAA-2: Carrying provision, Maine State Library, \$1.5 million**

In the FY23 Supplemental Budget request approved by the Legislature, MSL was appropriated \$1.5 million for compact shelving and \$300,000 for furniture and space planning in the renovated



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**Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library Legislative Update, January 1, 2024**

Per MRS Title 27 § 10, the Maine State Library is providing this report to the State Legislature concerning the Imagination Library of Maine.

Thanks to bipartisan agreement and support from Governor Janet Mills (MRS Title 27 § 10), the Maine State Library began a statewide expansion of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library (DPIL) in Maine on December 6, 2023. DPIL mails one high quality, age-appropriate book to children age birth-five, once a month, directly to their homes. National research proves DPIL increases the number of books in children’s homes, the amount of time and frequency that parents and caregivers read with their young children, and the level of reading readiness skills that children have when they enter school. The statewide expansion effort includes a \$200,000 investment from the legislature to provide a one-to-one match for local and county level DPIL programs. As of December 2023, there are 13 local programs serving 5,178 children in seven counties. MSL is working with state and local partners to expand that to additional areas, with the goal that all children under 5 in Maine will be eligible to participate within 2 years.

As specified in MRS Title 27 § 10:

- No deposits have been made to the fund. The expenditures made from the fund to date are:
  - \$2,391.68 in promotional items
  - \$3,335.03 in travel funds
  - Total spent to date from the DPIL fund: \$5,726.71

MSL will begin providing a one-to-one match for local programs for books and shipping beginning with their January 2024 book order. MSL will also begin to pay for fiscal agent services to DPIL starting in January 2024, to total \$1,000/month.

- No local funding match requirements have been waived.
- Thirteen local Imagination Library programs, called affiliates, are currently operating in Maine:

Organization	Area served	County
Cave Hill School	Eastbrook	Hancock
	Bryant Pond, Buckfield, Greenwood, Hartford, Limerick, Limington, Newfield, Milton Twp, Otisfield, Waterford, West Paris, and Woodstock	Oxford and York
Friends of Porter 569	Denmark	Oxford
Friends of Porter-Denmark	All of Washington County	Washington
Literacy Volunteers of Washington County		

Maine Community Foundation/Brooksville Children's Fund	Brooksville	Hancock
Millinocket Memorial Library	Millinocket	Penobscot
My First Bookshelf	All of Penobscot County except Millinocket	Penobscot
Mystic Tie Lodge #154	Carthage, Weld	Franklin
Sargentville Thursday Club	Sargentville and Sedgwick	Hancock
Seacrest Community School	Limited children in Kittery and Eliot	York
Swan's Island Educational Society	Swans Island	Hancock
United Way of Aroostook County	All of Aroostook County	Aroostook
United Way of Southern Maine	Biddeford	York

- Currently there are 5,178 children enrolled in the program. With one book mailed to each child each month, 5,178 books will be mailed in January 2024, the first month that the State of Maine will provide the one-to-one match for the local affiliates.

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