CHAPTER 4

REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

§110. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §24 (AMD).]

1. Appeals board. "Appeals board" means the Maine Library Commission acting, on request from interested citizens, as a board of review for decisions made concerning the State's library plan.
[PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

2. Area reference and resource center. "Area reference and resource center" means a large public, school or academic library designated by the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purposes of making its resources and services available without charge to all residents within a library region, of providing supplementary library services to local libraries within the library region and of coordinating the services of all local libraries within the library region that by contract become part of the library region.
[PL 2019, c. 150, §2 (AMD).]

3. Common borrower's card. "Common borrower's card" means a system of personal identification for the purpose of borrowing and returning books and other materials from any library that participates in the regional system.
[PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

4. Maine State Library consultant or specialist. "Maine State Library consultant or specialist" means an individual who acts as a general library consultant or specialist to one or more library regions.
[PL 2019, c. 150, §3 (AMD).]

5. District council.
[PL 2019, c. 150, §4 (RP).]

6. District plan.
[PL 2019, c. 150, §5 (RP).]

7. Library region. "Library region" or "region" means a defined geographic area consisting of local libraries. Libraries from multiple regions may be joined cooperatively to an area reference and resource center and a research center. Local libraries within the library region may also be joined cooperatively with other types of libraries.
[PL 2019, c. 150, §6 (AMD).]

8. Local library board. "Local library board" means the body which has the authority to give administrative direction or advice to a library through its librarian.
[PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

9. Media center.
[PL 2019, c. 150, §7 (RP).]

9-A. Maine Library Advisory Council. "Maine Library Advisory Council" means an advisory body representing a constituency of participating libraries from all geographical library regions, as described in section 114-A.
[PL 2019, c. 150, §8 (NEW).]

10. Public library. "Public library" means a library freely open to all persons and receives its financial support from a municipality, private association, corporation or group. The above serves the

informational, educational and recreational needs of all the residents of the area for which its governing body is responsible.
[PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

11. Regional library system. "Regional library system" means a network of library regions interrelated by formal or informal contract for the purpose of organizing library resources and services for research, information and recreation to improve statewide library service and to serve collectively the entire population of the State.
[PL 2019, c. 150, §9 (AMD).]

12. Research center. "Research center" means any library designated as such by the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purposes of making its major research collections, under such rules and regulations as are defined by its governing board and head librarian, available to the residents of the State.
[PL 1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §25 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 125, §1 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 464, §29 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 700, §§B24,25 (AMD). RR 1991, c. 2, §101 (COR). PL 2019, c. 150, §§2-9 (AMD).

§111. Regional library development

1. Maine Library Commission. There is created the Maine Library Commission, as established by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 7-E, which consists of 15 members appointed by the Governor. The commission membership must be broadly representative of the State's libraries and ensure geographic diversity and broad individual experiences and consist of the following:

A. Two members representing public libraries; [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

B. Two members representing kindergarten to grade 12 libraries; [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

C. One member representing a large university library; [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

D. One member representing a small college library; [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

E. One member representing a community college library; [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

F. One member representing a special or institution library; [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

G. One member representing persons with disabilities; [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

H. One member serving as a trustee for a library in the State; [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

I. One member of the Maine Library Advisory Council pursuant to section 114-A, subsection 1; [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

J. One member representing underserved and rural communities; [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

K. One member representing a Native American community; and [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

L. Two at-large members. [PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (NEW).]

The term of each appointed member is 3 years or until a successor is appointed and qualified. A member may not serve more than 2 successive terms. In the case of a vacancy other than the expiration of a term, the appointment of a successor must be made in like manner for the balance of the term.

In addition to the 15 appointed members, the directors of the area reference and resource centers shall serve as permanent, nonvoting ex officio members of the Maine Library Commission.

The commission shall meet at least 4 times a year. It shall elect a chair and vice-chair for terms of 2 years and frame and modify bylaws for its internal organization and operation.

The State Librarian shall serve as secretary to the commission. The members of the commission are compensated according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379.
[PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (RPR).]

2. Rules. The Maine Library Commission may adopt rules to carry out its responsibilities under this Title. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.
[PL 2009, c. 2, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 245 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 812, §168 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 503, §B114 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 700, §B26 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 349, §57 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 2, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 150, §10 (AMD).

§112. Maine Library Commission functions

The Maine Library Commission shall: [PL 2021, c. 496, §3 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 496, §§6,7 (AFF).]

1. Appointment of State Librarian. Appoint the State Librarian. The State Librarian must be qualified through training or experience in library work. The State Librarian shall serve at the pleasure of the Maine Library Commission. The Maine Library Commission shall fix compensation for the State Librarian within salary range 88;
[PL 2021, c. 496, §4 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 496, §§6,7 (AFF).]

2. Policies. Establish the policies and operations of the Maine State Library and the State's library program including minimum standards of library service, the apportionment of state aid to libraries, the designation of library regions and their boundaries, the endorsement of the designation of area reference and resource centers and the designation of research centers after full consideration of the advice of the State Librarian;
[PL 2019, c. 150, §11 (AMD).]

3. Review. Act, on written request by any interested library, as an appeals board concerning decisions of the State Librarian regarding the items in subsection 2. The written request for a hearing must be filed within 30 days from the date of the decision; and
[RR 1991, c. 2, §102 (COR).]

4. Federal program. Serve as the State Advisory Council on Libraries and in that capacity give advice and make recommendations to the State Librarian with regard to the administration of federal funds, in accordance with the terms thereof, which may now or in the future become available for library purposes.
[PL 1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §28 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 125, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 700, §§B27,28 (AMD). RR 1991, c. 2, §102 (COR). PL 1991, c. 528, §E31 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). PL 1991, c. 591, §E31 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 150, §11 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 496, §§2-4 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 496, §§6,7 (AFF).

§113. Library regions

The Maine Library Commission shall divide the State into as many regions as the commission determines are required and shall establish or modify the geographical boundaries of each region. [PL 2019, c. 150, §12 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §B29 (RPR). PL 2019, c. 150, §12 (AMD).

§114. District council

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 125, §§3,4 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 464, §30 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 150, §13 (RP).

§114-A. Maine Library Advisory Council

There is created the Maine Library Advisory Council, as established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 5-D and referred to in this section as "the council." [PL 2019, c. 150, §14 (NEW).]

1. Membership. The council consists of one member from each established library region appointed in accordance with the council's bylaws. An additional member is appointed by the Governor to serve as a liaison with the Maine Library Commission pursuant to section 111, subsection 1, paragraph I. The council shall elect from its membership officers as appropriate. The council shall meet at least 4 times a year.
[PL 2019, c. 150, §14 (NEW).]

2. Duties. The council shall:

A. Serve as an advisory body for the regions; [PL 2019, c. 150, §14 (NEW).]

B. Evaluate library services in all regions in order to advise the Maine State Library and the Maine Library Commission regarding services that encourage cooperative activity among all types of libraries; [PL 2019, c. 150, §14 (NEW).]

C. Provide liaison services among all local libraries in a region; [PL 2019, c. 150, §14 (NEW).]

D. Make recommendations to Maine State Library staff and the Maine Library Commission regarding programs and services that help to make libraries accessible to all; and [PL 2019, c. 150, §14 (NEW).]

E. Advise the State Librarian on the need for and the designation of area reference and resource centers and research centers in any region. [PL 2019, c. 150, §14 (NEW).]
[PL 2019, c. 150, §14 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 150, §14 (NEW).

§115. Area reference and resource centers

Each library region must be affiliated with an area reference and resource center designated by the State Librarian. [PL 2019, c. 150, §15 (AMD).]

1. Duties. An area reference and resource center may:

A. Provide a common borrower's card for libraries and residents within library regions, as determined through contractual arrangements between the Maine State Library and the area reference and resource center; [PL 2019, c. 150, §15 (AMD).]

B. Participate with the Maine State Library consultant or specialist in planning and conducting workshops on community-library planning; [PL 2019, c. 150, §15 (AMD).]

C. Provide office space and support services to the extent able to the Maine State Library consultant or specialist; and [PL 2019, c. 150, §15 (AMD).]

D. [PL 2019, c. 150, §15 (RP).]

E. Provide other cooperative activities and services as libraries may need or require. [PL 2019, c. 150, §15 (AMD).]

[PL 2019, c. 150, §15 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §§B30,31 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 150, §15 (AMD).

§116. Research centers

Research centers may be designated by the State Librarian with the advice of the Maine Library Commission. [PL 2013, c. 82, §9 (AMD).]

1. Duties. The research center shall:

A. Provide for advanced research needs; [PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

B. Act as a back-up collection for the specialized reference needs of the reference and resource centers; [PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

C. Provide such other cooperative activities and services as libraries may need or require. [PL 2019, c. 150, §16 (AMD).]

[PL 2019, c. 150, §16 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 82, §9 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 150, §16 (AMD).

§117. Maine State Library consultants or specialists

Staff of the Maine State Library holding the position of consultant or specialist shall provide consulting or specialist services to libraries in all library regions. The State Librarian, with the advice of the Maine Library Advisory Council, shall appoint a staff member holding the position of consultant or specialist to serve as a primary point of contact or liaison to one or more library regions. [PL 2019, c. 150, §17 (AMD).]

1. Duties. A Maine State Library consultant or specialist shall:

A. [PL 2019, c. 150, §17 (RP).]

B. Study the needs of the library region or regions and make recommendations to the Maine Library Advisory Council; [PL 2019, c. 150, §17 (AMD).]

C. Coordinate services among libraries of all types; [PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

D. Provide liaison between the library region or regions and the Maine State Library; [PL 2019, c. 150, §17 (AMD).]

E. Encourage local initiative and commitment to regional cooperative library service; and [PL 2019, c. 150, §17 (AMD).]

F. Work with area reference and resource center staff members in planning area reference and interlibrary loan service. [PL 2019, c. 150, §17 (AMD).]

G. [PL 2019, c. 150, §17 (RP).]

[PL 2019, c. 150, §17 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 125, §§5,6 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 464, §§31-33 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 82, §10 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 150, §17 (AMD).

§118. School libraries

Any school library in a community with no public library service, or serving communities with no public libraries, that agrees to offer service as a public library is entitled to all the benefits accruing to a public library with the approval of the State Librarian. [PL 2019, c. 150, §18 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §B32 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 150, §18 (AMD).

§119. Distribution of appropriations

The State Librarian is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems. [PL 2013, c. 82, §11 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 125, §7 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 555, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 564, §100 (RPR). PL 1977, c. 690, §15 (RPR). PL 1989, c. 700, §B33 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 82, §11 (AMD).

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