

CHAPTER 155

H.B. No. 1589

AN ACT

relating to the amendment of the Texas Library System to include all publicly funded libraries and libraries of institutions of higher education.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 441.122(13), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(13) "Regional library system" means a network of library systems established under this subchapter. *Notwithstanding other provisions of this subchapter, libraries operated by public school districts, institutions of higher education, and units of state or local government may become members of a regional library system to make the library resources freely accessible to all residents of the system.*

SECTION 2. Section 441.126, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 441.126. **AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH MAJOR RESOURCE SYSTEMS.** The commission may establish and develop major resource systems *or regional library systems* in conformity with the plan for a state library system as provided by this subchapter.

SECTION 3. Section 441.127(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible for membership in a major resource system *or regional library system* a library must be accredited by the commission as having met the accreditation standards established by the commission.

SECTION 4. Section 441.131(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Governing bodies of libraries within a regional library system may establish a nonprofit corporation under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act (Article 1396-1.01 et seq., Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) to administer the system or may contract with a private business to administer the system. If the governing bodies form a nonprofit corporation, they may select a board of directors and adopt bylaws for the corporation. Bylaws adopted or a contract executed under this section may *permit* [~~provide for funding and participation by~~] other libraries *operated by public school districts, institutions of higher education, and units of state or local government to become members of the regional library system.* Bylaws may provide for reorganization, merger, division, and dissolution.

SECTION 5. Section 441.135(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The program of state grants shall include one or more of the following:

(1) system operation grants, to strengthen major resource system services to member *public* libraries and regional library system services to member libraries, including grants to reimburse other libraries for providing specialized services to major resource systems and regional library systems;

(2) incentive grants, to encourage *public* libraries to join together into larger units of service in order to meet criteria for major resource system membership or regional library system membership;

(3) establishment grants, to help establish *public* libraries that will qualify for major resource system membership or regional library system membership in communities without *public* library service; and

(4) equalization grants, to help *public* libraries in communities with relatively limited taxable resources to meet criteria for major resource system membership or regional library system membership.

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

SECTION 7. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the

constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on April 23, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 7, 1993: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved May 15, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.