

Subject Basic Support Grants; Regional Public Library Systems

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Overview

Minnesota's public libraries are generally operated by cities or counties and are primarily funded through local property taxes. The 12 regional public library systems are joint powers agreements among cities and counties that cooperate to provide shared and reciprocal library services broadening access to public library services and resources within each region and statewide.

The regional library systems receive state funding through the K12 education budget. The current regional library system basic aid formula allocates funding as follows:

- 57.5 percent of the funding is allocated among the regions based on population;
- 12.5 percent of the funding is allocated among the regions based on their geographic size;
- 5 percent of the money is allocated evenly to each regional system; and
- 25 percent of the money is allocated across the regions based on tax base.

H.F. 1710 increases the appropriation for Minnesota's regional public library system by \$2 million per year, lowers the aid distribution based on tax base by 10 percentage points, and increases the aid evenly allocated among each of the systems by the same percentage.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Basic aid distribution.
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	Increases the percentage of the total regional public library aid paid equally to each system from five to 15 percent.
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Section	Description
2	Adjusted net tax capacity distribution. Decreases the portion of regional public library system aid based upon the region's relative tax base from 25 to 15 percent of the total allocation. Lags by one more year, the measure of tax base used so that the ratios are final when the aid is calculated.
3	Population calculation. Clarifies that the population used to compute population aid is the most recently available population count.
4	Appropriations. Increases the appropriations for the regional library basic system support program by \$2 million per year over the base level of funding.



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