

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Library accessibility and improvement grants

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Overview

The 1994 Legislature created a grant program for public library accessibility projects. The grants are funded through state bond proceeds. The 1994 Legislature initially approved \$1 million for the program. Subsequent bonding bills have included \$1 million in 1996, \$1.5 million in 1998, \$1 million in 2000, \$1 million in 2002 (an amount that was initially vetoed by the Governor but then subsequently approved by the 2003 Legislature), \$1 million in 2005, \$1 million in 2006, and \$1.5 million in 2008. In 2010, the governor vetoed \$2 million in authority for this program.

The 2005 Legislature expanded the program from accessibility grants only to include other library improvement projects. Under current law, accessibility grants are limited to the lesser \$200,000 or 50 percent of the project cost and improvement grants are limited to the lesser of \$1 million or 50 percent of the total project costs.

This bill appropriates an unspecified amount for library accessibility and improvement grants.

- 1 Appropriation.** Appropriates an unspecified amount from the state bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of education for library accessibility and improvement grants.
- 2 Bond sale.** Requests the commissioner of finance to sell and issue an unspecified amount in state general obligation bonds to fund the library accessibility and improvements grants authorized in section 1.
- 3 Effective date.** Makes sections 1 and 2 effective the day following final enactment.