

**Subject** Regional Library Funding

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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;
- five 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. 1917 increases the aid entitlement for the regional library basic grants by \$4,000,000 per year and modifies the distribution of regional library aid among the 12 regional systems by lowering the portion of aid distributed on tax base by 10 percentage points and increasing the aid evenly allocated among each of the systems by the same 10 percentage points.

H.F. 1917 also increases the appropriation for multicounty, multitype libraries by \$700,000 per year and provides a onetime grant of \$1,000,000 to the multicounty, multitype library systems to increase the number of licensed library media specialists.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Appropriations.</b></p> <p>Beginning in fiscal year 2026, increases the annual aid entitlement for the regional library basic support grants by linking the aid amount to the annual increase in the general education basic formula allowance.</p>
2	<p><b>Base aid distribution.</b></p> <p>Increases the percentage of the total regional public library paid equally to each of the 12 systems from five to 15 percent of the total basic support grant aid entitlement.</p>
3	<p><b>Adjusted net tax capacity.</b></p> <p>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.</p>
4	<p><b>Population calculation.</b></p> <p>Clarifies that the population used to compute this portion of the regional library basic support aid is the most recently available population count.</p>
5	<p><b>Appropriations.</b></p> <p>Increases the funding for regional library systems as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ \$1,000,000 for a onetime grant to the multicounty, multitype library system for licensed media specialists;</li><li>▪ \$700,000 per year for multicounty, multitype libraries; and</li><li>▪ \$4,000,000 per year for regional library basic system support grants.</li></ul>



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