

# “Public Library”

UPDATED LEGAL DEFINITION (HB2243) AND ASSOCIATED OREGON  
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

# HB2243 Passed

▶ **Legal definition of Public Library was:**

“Public library” [or “public library system”] means a public agency responsible for providing and making accessible to all residents of a local government unit library and information services suitable to persons of all ages.

# HB2243 Passed

▶ **Legal definition of Public Library is now:**

“Public library” [or “public library system”] means a public agency that provides to all residents of a local government unit free and equal access to library and information services that are suitable for persons of all ages.

# HB2243 Passed

▶ **Legal definition of Public Library now also includes:**

(1) The State Library Board shall establish minimum conditions that a public library must meet.

# HB2243 Passed

▶ **Legal definition of Public Library now also includes:**

(2) The conditions established under this section must, at least:

- ▶ (a) Include financial support from public funds and regularly scheduled open hours; and
- ▶ (b) Provide reasonable exemptions to libraries with service populations of 2,000 or fewer residents of the local government unit.

# Why?

- ▶ Previously, no minimum conditions, no defined level of basic services for all public library
- ▶ A level of assurance that State money is distributed to good stewards.

# Where?

- ▶ Public Library Division of the Oregon Library Association
  - ▶ Responsible for developing and maintaining the Public Library Standards
  - ▶ There's a committee, feel free to join in! 😊
  - ▶ Developed "minimum requirements"

# Where?

- ▶ State Library charged with creating and maintain “minimum conditions” to be approved by the State Library Board
  - ▶ Formed a rules advisory committee was formed
  - ▶ Met several times, using the “minimum requirements” as a starting point
  - ▶ State Library provided the required commenting period
  - ▶ Reviewed, amended, and approved by the State Library Board
  - ▶ Effective as of January 1, 2020



# How?

- ▶ State Library will use the Annual Statistical Report to determine if a library meets the “minimum conditions”
- ▶ In some cases, multiple questions will be used
- ▶ In other cases, there will be new questions

State Library working through the final details and will have online documentation available by January 1, 2020



# How about some examples?

▶ Sure!

# What happens if...?

- ▶ In 2020, Report will be due October 31; finalized in December
- ▶ Staff will review in March/April 2021, report to Board in June 2021
- ▶ July 1, 2021: start of 2-year clock for libraries that don't meet conditions
  - ▶ **This is the time that libraries work WITH the State Library to meet conditions (if not sooner)**
  - ▶ **Library is STILL eligible for state aid and grants during this two-year period**
- ▶ June 2023 official recognition of public library reviewed by State Library Board
- ▶ Public library must request reinstatement with signed documentation

# In Conclusion...

- ▶ State Library will provide documentation to assist libraries
- ▶ Libraries will self-report on compliance with “minimum conditions” through the Annual Statistical Report
- ▶ Libraries “at risk” can be proactive and reach out to the State Library at any time
- ▶ The State Library will monitor compliance and reach out to libraries
- ▶ There is a process outlined in the full Administrative Rules

**WE ARE YOUR PARTNERS IN PROVIDING PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE!**