



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4261

Introduced 1/14/2026, by Rep. Martha Deuter

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

75 ILCS 10/8	from Ch. 81, par. 118
75 ILCS 10/8.1	from Ch. 81, par. 118.1
75 ILCS 10/8.4	from Ch. 81, par. 118.4

Amends the Illinois Library System Act. Increases the amounts to be provided by the State Librarian for annual library system grants, for annual grants to qualified public libraries in the State, and for annual school library grants. Effective immediately.

LRB104 16516 RTM 29912 b

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Library System Act is amended by
5 changing Sections 8, 8.1, and 8.4 as follows:

6 (75 ILCS 10/8) (from Ch. 81, par. 118)

7 (Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 104-108)

8 Sec. 8. State grants.

9 (a) There shall be a program of State grants within the
10 limitations of funds appropriated by the Illinois General
11 Assembly together with other funds made available by the
12 federal government or other sources for this purpose. This
13 program of State grants shall be administered by the State
14 Librarian in accordance with rules and regulations as provided
15 in Section 3 of this Act and shall include the following: (i)
16 annual equalization grants; (ii) Library System grants; (iii)
17 per capita grants to public libraries; and (iv) planning and
18 construction grants to public libraries and library systems.
19 Libraries, in order to be eligible for grants under this
20 Section, must be members of a library system.

21 (b) An annual equalization grant shall be made to all
22 public libraries for which the corporate authorities levy a
23 tax for library purposes at a rate not less than .13% of the

1 value of all the taxable property as equalized and assessed by
2 the Department of Revenue if the amount of tax revenue
3 obtained from a rate of .13% produces less than \$17.50 per
4 capita in property tax revenue from property taxes for Fiscal
5 Year 2025 and thereafter. In that case, the State Librarian is
6 authorized to make an equalization grant equivalent to the
7 difference between the amount obtained from a rate of .13% and
8 an annual income of \$17.50 per capita for grants made in Fiscal
9 Year 2025 and thereafter. If moneys appropriated for grants
10 under this Section are not sufficient, then the State
11 Librarian shall reduce the per capita amount of the grants so
12 that the qualifying public libraries receive the same amount
13 per capita, but in no event shall the grant be less than
14 equivalent to the difference between the amount of the tax
15 revenue obtained from the current levy and an annual income of
16 \$4.25 per capita. If a library receiving an equalization grant
17 reduces its tax levy below the amount levied at the time the
18 original application is approved, it shall be ineligible to
19 receive further equalization grants.

20 If a library is subject to the Property Tax Extension
21 Limitation Law in the Property Tax Code and its tax levy for
22 library purposes has been lowered to a rate of less than .13%,
23 the library will qualify for this grant if the library levied a
24 tax for library purposes that met the requirements for this
25 grant in the previous year and if the tax levied for library
26 purposes in the current year produces tax revenue for the

1 library that is an increase over the previous year's extension
2 of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index,
3 whichever is less, and the tax revenue produced by this levy is
4 less than \$17.50 per capita in property tax revenue from
5 property taxes for the Fiscal Year 2025 and thereafter. In
6 this case, the State Librarian is authorized to make an
7 equalization grant equivalent to the difference between the
8 amount of tax revenue obtained from the current levy and an
9 annual income of \$17.50 per capita for grants made in Fiscal
10 Year 2025 and thereafter. If moneys appropriated for grants
11 under this Section are not sufficient, then the State
12 Librarian shall reduce the per capita amount of the grants so
13 that the qualifying public libraries receive the same amount
14 per capita, but in no event shall the grant be less than
15 equivalent to the difference between the amount of the tax
16 revenue obtained from the current levy and an annual income of
17 \$4.25 per capita. If a library receiving an equalization grant
18 reduces its tax levy below the amount levied at the time the
19 original application is approved, it shall be ineligible to
20 receive further equalization grants.

21 (c) Annual Library System grants shall be made, upon
22 application, to each library system approved by the State
23 Librarian on the following basis:

24 (1) For library systems, the sum of \$1.46 per capita
25 of the population of the area served plus the sum of \$50.75
26 per square mile or fraction thereof of the area served

1 except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection.

2 (2) If the amounts appropriated for grants are
3 different from the amount provided for in paragraph (1) of
4 this subsection, the area and per capita funding shall be
5 proportionately reduced or increased accordingly.

6 (3) For library systems, additional funds may be
7 appropriated. The appropriation shall be distributed on
8 the same proportional per capita and per square mile basis
9 as provided in paragraphs (1) and (4) of this subsection.

10 (4) Per capita and area funding for a multitype
11 library system as defined in subparagraph (3) of the
12 definition of "library system" in Section 2 and a public
13 library system in cities with a population of 500,000 or
14 more as defined in subparagraph (2) of the definition of
15 "library system" in Section 2 shall be apportioned with
16 25% of the funding granted to the multitype library system
17 and 75% of the funding granted to the public library
18 system.

19 (d) The "area served" for the purposes of making and
20 expending annual Library System grants means the area that
21 lies within the geographic boundaries of the library system as
22 approved by the State Librarian, except that grant funding
23 awarded to a library system may also be expended for the
24 provision of services to members of other library systems if
25 such an expenditure is included in a library system's plan of
26 service and is approved by the State Librarian. In determining

1 the population of the area served by the library system, the
2 Illinois State Library shall use the latest federal census for
3 the political subdivisions in the area served.

4 (e) In order to be eligible for a grant under this Section,
5 the corporate authorities, instead of a tax levy at a
6 particular rate, may provide an amount equivalent to the
7 amount produced by that levy.

8 (Source: P.A. 103-588, eff. 7-1-24.)

9 (Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 104-108)

10 Sec. 8. State grants.

11 (a) There shall be a program of State grants within the
12 limitations of funds appropriated by the Illinois General
13 Assembly together with other funds made available by the
14 federal government or other sources for this purpose. This
15 program of State grants shall be administered by the State
16 Librarian in accordance with rules and regulations as provided
17 in Section 3 of this Act and shall include the following: (i)
18 annual equalization grants; (ii) Library System grants; (iii)
19 per capita grants to public libraries; (iv) planning and
20 construction grants to library systems and public libraries
21 that are members of a library system; and (v) grants to improve
22 or enhance security of libraries.

23 (b) An annual equalization grant shall be made to all
24 public libraries for which the corporate authorities levy a
25 tax for library purposes at a rate not less than .13% of the

1 value of all the taxable property as equalized and assessed by
2 the Department of Revenue if the amount of tax revenue
3 obtained from a rate of .13% produces less than \$17.50 per
4 capita in property tax revenue from property taxes for Fiscal
5 Year 2025 and thereafter. In that case, the State Librarian is
6 authorized to make an equalization grant equivalent to the
7 difference between the amount obtained from a rate of .13% and
8 an annual income of \$17.50 per capita for grants made in Fiscal
9 Year 2025 and thereafter. If moneys appropriated for grants
10 under this Section are not sufficient, then the State
11 Librarian shall reduce the per capita amount of the grants so
12 that the qualifying public libraries receive the same amount
13 per capita, but in no event shall the grant be less than
14 equivalent to the difference between the amount of the tax
15 revenue obtained from the current levy and an annual income of
16 \$4.25 per capita. If a library receiving an equalization grant
17 reduces its tax levy below the amount levied at the time the
18 original application is approved, it shall be ineligible to
19 receive further equalization grants.

20 If a library is subject to the Property Tax Extension
21 Limitation Law in the Property Tax Code and its tax levy for
22 library purposes has been lowered to a rate of less than .13%,
23 the library will qualify for this grant if the library levied a
24 tax for library purposes that met the requirements for this
25 grant in the previous year and if the tax levied for library
26 purposes in the current year produces tax revenue for the

1 library that is an increase over the previous year's extension
2 of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index,
3 whichever is less, and the tax revenue produced by this levy is
4 less than \$17.50 per capita in property tax revenue from
5 property taxes for the Fiscal Year 2025 and thereafter. In
6 this case, the State Librarian is authorized to make an
7 equalization grant equivalent to the difference between the
8 amount of tax revenue obtained from the current levy and an
9 annual income of \$17.50 per capita for grants made in Fiscal
10 Year 2025 and thereafter. If moneys appropriated for grants
11 under this Section are not sufficient, then the State
12 Librarian shall reduce the per capita amount of the grants so
13 that the qualifying public libraries receive the same amount
14 per capita, but in no event shall the grant be less than
15 equivalent to the difference between the amount of the tax
16 revenue obtained from the current levy and an annual income of
17 \$4.25 per capita. If a library receiving an equalization grant
18 reduces its tax levy below the amount levied at the time the
19 original application is approved, it shall be ineligible to
20 receive further equalization grants.

21 (c) Annual Library System grants shall be made, upon
22 application, to each library system approved by the State
23 Librarian on the following basis:

24 (1) For library systems, the sum of \$1.75 ~~\$1.46~~ per
25 capita of the population of the area served plus the sum of
26 \$60.90 ~~\$50.75~~ per square mile or fraction thereof of the

1 area served except as provided in paragraph (4) of this
2 subsection.

3 (2) If the amounts appropriated for grants are
4 different from the amount provided for in paragraph (1) of
5 this subsection, the area and per capita funding shall be
6 proportionately reduced or increased accordingly.

7 (3) For library systems, additional funds may be
8 appropriated. The appropriation shall be distributed on
9 the same proportional per capita and per square mile basis
10 as provided in paragraphs (1) and (4) of this subsection.

11 (4) Per capita and area funding for a multitype
12 library system as defined in subparagraph (3) of the
13 definition of "library system" in Section 2 and a public
14 library system in cities with a population of 500,000 or
15 more as defined in subparagraph (2) of the definition of
16 "library system" in Section 2 shall be apportioned with
17 25% of the funding granted to the multitype library system
18 and 75% of the funding granted to the public library
19 system.

20 (d) The "area served" for the purposes of making and
21 expending annual Library System grants means the area that
22 lies within the geographic boundaries of the library system as
23 approved by the State Librarian, except that grant funding
24 awarded to a library system may also be expended for the
25 provision of services to members of other library systems if
26 such an expenditure is included in a library system's plan of

1 service and is approved by the State Librarian. In determining
2 the population of the area served by the library system, the
3 Illinois State Library shall use the latest federal census for
4 the political subdivisions in the area served.

5 (e) In order to be eligible for a grant under this Section,
6 the corporate authorities, instead of a tax levy at a
7 particular rate, may provide an amount equivalent to the
8 amount produced by that levy.

9 (Source: P.A. 103-588, eff. 7-1-24; 104-108, eff. 1-1-26.)

10 (75 ILCS 10/8.1) (from Ch. 81, par. 118.1)

11 Sec. 8.1. The State Librarian shall make grants annually
12 under this Section to all qualified public libraries in the
13 State from funds appropriated by the General Assembly. Such
14 grants shall be in the amount of up to \$1.77 ~~\$1.475~~ per capita
15 for the population of the area served by the respective public
16 library and, in addition, the amount of up to \$0.228 ~~\$0.19~~ per
17 capita to libraries serving populations over 500,000 under the
18 Illinois Major Urban Library Program. If the moneys
19 appropriated for grants under this Section fail to meet the
20 \$1.77 ~~\$1.475~~ and the \$0.228 ~~\$0.19~~ per capita amounts above,
21 the funding shall be decreased pro rata so that qualifying
22 public libraries receive the same amount per capita. If the
23 moneys appropriated for grants under this Section exceed the
24 \$1.77 ~~\$1.475~~ and the \$0.228 ~~\$0.19~~ per capita amounts above,
25 the funding shall be increased pro rata so that qualifying

1 public libraries receive the same amount per capita.

2 To be eligible for grants under this Section, a public
3 library must:

4 (1) Provide, as determined by the State Librarian,
5 library services which either meet or show progress toward
6 meeting the Illinois library standards, as most recently
7 adopted by the Illinois Library Association.

8 (2) Be a public library for which is levied a tax for
9 library purposes at a rate not less than .13% or a county
10 library for which is levied a tax for library purposes at a
11 rate not less than .07%. If a library is subject to the
12 Property Tax Extension Limitation Law in the Property Tax
13 Code and its tax levy for library purposes has been
14 lowered to a rate of less than .13%, this requirement will
15 be waived if the library qualified for this grant in the
16 previous year and if the tax levied for library purposes
17 in the current year produces tax revenue for library
18 purposes that is an increase over the previous year's
19 extension of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer
20 Price Index, whichever is less. Beginning in State Fiscal
21 Year 2012, the eligibility requirement in this subsection
22 shall be waived if a library's tax levy for library
23 purposes has been lowered to a rate of less than 0.13%, and
24 the State Librarian determines that the library (i)
25 continues to meet the requirements of item (1) of this
26 Section and (ii) received a grant under this Section in

1 the previous fiscal year.

2 Any other language in this Section to the contrary
3 notwithstanding, grants under this Section 8.1 shall be made
4 only upon application of the public library concerned, which
5 applications shall be entirely voluntary and within the sole
6 discretion of the public library concerned.

7 In order to be eligible for a grant under this Section, the
8 corporate authorities, in lieu of a tax levy at a particular
9 rate, may provide funds from other sources, an amount
10 equivalent to the amount to be produced by that levy.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-39, eff. 6-25-21.)

12 (75 ILCS 10/8.4) (from Ch. 81, par. 118.4)

13 Sec. 8.4. School library grants. Beginning July 1, 1989,
14 the State Librarian shall make grants annually under this
15 Section to all school districts in the State for the
16 establishment and operation of qualified school libraries, or
17 the additional support of existing qualified school libraries,
18 from funds appropriated by the General Assembly. Such grants
19 shall be in the amount of \$1.06 ~~\$0.885~~ per student as
20 determined by the official enrollment as of the previous
21 September 30 of the respective school having a qualified
22 school library. If the moneys appropriated for grants under
23 this Section are not sufficient, the State Librarian shall
24 reduce the amount of the grants as necessary; in making these
25 reductions, the State Librarian shall endeavor to provide each

1 school district that has a qualifying school library (i) at
2 least the same amount per student as the district received
3 under this Section in the preceding fiscal year, and (ii) a
4 total grant of at least \$1,000 ~~\$850~~, which, in the event of an
5 insufficient appropriation, shall not be reduced to a total
6 grant of less than \$100.

7 To qualify for grants under this Section, a school library
8 must:

9 (1) Be an entity which serves the basic information
10 and library needs of the school's employees and students
11 through a bibliographically organized collection of
12 library materials, has at least one employee whose primary
13 duty is to serve as a librarian, and has a collection
14 permanently supported financially, accessible centrally,
15 and occupying identifiable quarters in one principal
16 location.

17 (2) Meet the requirements for membership in a library
18 system under the provisions of this Act.

19 (3) Have applied for membership in the library system
20 of jurisdiction if the system is a multitype library
21 system under this Act.

22 (4) Provide, as mutually determined by the Illinois
23 State Librarian and the Illinois State Board of Education,
24 library services which either meet or show progress toward
25 meeting the Illinois school library standards as most
26 recently adopted by the Illinois School Library Media

1 Association.

2 (5) Submit a statement certifying that the financial
3 support for the school library or libraries of the
4 applying school district has been maintained undiminished,
5 or if diminished, the percentage of diminution of
6 financial support is no more than the percentage of
7 diminution of the applying school's total financial
8 support for educational and operations purposes since the
9 submission of the last previous application of the school
10 district for the school library per student grant that was
11 funded.

12 Grants under this Section shall be made only upon
13 application of the school district for its qualified school
14 library or school libraries.

15 (Source: P.A. 102-39, eff. 6-25-21.)

16 Section 95. No acceleration or delay. Where this Act makes
17 changes in a statute that is represented in this Act by text
18 that is not yet or no longer in effect (for example, a Section
19 represented by multiple versions), the use of that text does
20 not accelerate or delay the taking effect of (i) the changes
21 made by this Act or (ii) provisions derived from any other
22 Public Act.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
24 becoming law.