

**HB4261**



**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

**A BILL FOR**

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

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

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

(1) For library systems, the sum of \$1.46 per capita of the population of the area served plus the sum of \$50.75 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

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

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

(1) For library systems, the sum of \$1.75 ~~\$1.46~~ per capita of the population of the area served plus the sum of \$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

## Association.

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

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

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

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

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