



New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries

NMCAL Legislative Committee Progress Report

Presented to the NMCAL Membership

April 23, 2009

Meetings Attended:

January 30, 2009 – NMCAL Library Legislative Review – Santa Fe, N.M., NM Supreme Court Law Library.

A NMCAL library legislative review was held at the NM Supreme Court Law Library in Santa Fe New Mexico. The legislative review was to provide an overview of academic library legislation, as well as a review of an information folder provided to State Legislators' during Library Legislative Day at the State Capitol. Over twenty academic librarians and supporters attended the review.

GO Bond Distribution: (Isabel Rodarte, NMCAL Legislative Committee).

Isabel is still working with Tino Pestalozzi from the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED), to arrive at the distributions for the 2008 GO Bond. He had indicated he would have the FTE reports soon. Isabel will provide more detail in her report she will give at the NMCAL Lunch/Business meeting on April 23rd.

Cost of Libraries Committee: (Martha Bedard, Chair of Cost of Libraries Committee)

The recommendations made by this committee were well received and approved by the HED Formula Funding Enhancement Task Force. However no funds were allocated and with our advocate Reed Dasenbrock gone it is unclear where we go from here. I recommend that as soon as a new (or interim) Secretary is appointed the Cost of Libraries and NMCAL Legislative committee make arrangements to brief him or her on the important issues for us.

Summary of Legislative Developments: (Here is a summary of final actions on bills of interest to libraries during the 2009 New Mexico Legislative session provided by Joe Sabatini, Co-Chair NMLA Legislation Committee).

State Aid Budget:

Governor Richardson signed the General Appropriations Act on April 7th. The State Library budget still shows the \$350,000 in new money for state grants-in-aid to public libraries that is described in the next paragraph. This more than doubles the amount available for distribution at a time when many other programs received reduced funding. Thanks to everyone who communicated with your legislators about your increased workload in helping people affected by the recession. This is a remarkable achievement! Be sure to communicate your appreciation to your legislators.

"Funding for state grants-in-aid are included in a line item in the State Library Budget called "Other". This line item had \$936,600 (for state aid and other programs)in House Bill 2, the General Appropriations Act of 2009, as passed by the House. The Senate Finance Committee Substitute for HB 2 passed the Senate, and includes \$1,286,600 in the same line item. Senator Carroll Leavell, R-Eddy & Lea, (who sponsored SB 13 to increase state aid), was successful in placing an additional \$350,000 in the "Other" budget for state-aid."

Indian School Libraries:

Governor Richardson signed HB 508, by Rep. Roger Madalena, the act which adds Bureau of Indian Education students into the distribution formula for the School Library Materials Fund

Capital Outlay:

The Governor signed House Bill 154, the Severance Tax Bond Projects bill, but there were no library projects in this bill. Earlier this session, the Legislature reallocated and eliminated money for unspent capital outlay projects from previous years. The Governor signed HB 9 on February 6th. Among the projects which lost funding was a \$400,000 appropriation towards renovating a building for a new public library in Grants.

Infrastructure Development Zones:

Thanks to Geri Hutchins at the State Library, who tracked HB 552 and sent the following:

"The Governor signed HB552"

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/session.aspx?Chamber=H&LegType=B&LegNo=552&year=09>

which will "allow the creation of "infrastructure development zones" within cities and counties that could issue bonds, backed by property tax levies within the zones, to help private developers pay for infrastructure such as water and sewer systems, police and fire facilities, roads, garbage collection, libraries and electricity and natural gas distribution facilities.

The fiscal impact study is worth reading

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/09%20Regular/firs/HB0552.pdf>"