

Committee on Local Government

HB 061 – Revise Interlibrary Program – Representative Jon Sesso

For the record, my name is Lois Fitzpatrick and I represent the Montana Library Association which has over 500 members in all types of libraries in Montana, such as public, school, academic, tribal and special libraries.

MLA thanks Representative Jon Sesso for carrying this bill for the Montana State Library and is in support of this legislation.

This is a very important piece of legislation for libraries in the state. This bill will allow greater flexibility in the manner in which libraries share materials. Instead of a statewide library card, that is in current statute and that has never been used due to lack of funding, this will allow libraries to voluntarily allow users of other libraries to use another library as a full library user. Some libraries around the state already allow users to use their "home public library card". This will actually encourage more libraries to do this.

This bill will also allow for flexibility in dealing with library issues involving resource sharing. Currently money is given to Montana libraries that lend materials to other Montana libraries. Unfortunately the cost of lending ILL materials keeps going up while the "pot of money" doesn't increase. There may be better, more efficient and more cost effective ways that this money could be used for resource sharing. The Fulfillment Task Force spent approximately two years in studying the use of this money and possible ways that it could be used that would benefit libraries and Montanans.

I urge you to vote "do pass" on HB 061.

Thank you.

Lois Fitzpatrick

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