

SENATE INDIAN, RURAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 273

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

AN ACT

RELATING TO LIBRARIES; CLARIFYING GRANT ELIGIBILITY; REVISING
THE DEFINITION OF "RURAL LIBRARY".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 18-18-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
Chapter 165, Section 2) is amended to read:

"18-18-2. RURAL LIBRARIES GRANT PROGRAM--SPECIALIZED
SERVICES.--

A. The "rural libraries grant program" is created.
Through that program, the state librarian shall annually
disburse, in the form of grants directly benefiting developing
rural libraries and established rural libraries and grants for
the establishment of developing rural libraries in cities,
towns and villages without libraries, money from the rural
libraries program fund. The state librarian shall endeavor

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1 each year to disburse the full amount available for rural
2 libraries grants. The portion, if any, of that amount not
3 disbursed shall be made available for the next award of grants.

4 B. Once a developing rural library or an
5 established rural library qualifies to receive grants pursuant
6 to this section, that library shall remain qualified to receive
7 such grants even if the population in the municipality or
8 Indian nation, tribe or pueblo exceeds three thousand.

9 [B.] C. The state librarian shall use money
10 allocated for specialized services to rural libraries from the
11 rural libraries endowment fund distribution to provide
12 specialized services to rural libraries."

13 SECTION 2. Section 18-18-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
14 Chapter 165, Section 4) is amended to read:

15 "18-18-4. DEFINITIONS.--As used in Sections [~~1 through 4~~
16 ~~of this 2019 act~~] 18-18-1 through 18-18-4 NMSA 1978, and to the
17 extent allowed by law:

18 A. "developing rural library" means a rural library
19 whose library staff, whether salaried or volunteer, is
20 dedicated to delivering library services to the public for at
21 least fifteen hours per week and on at least two days each
22 week;

23 B. "established rural library" means a rural
24 library:

25 (1) with permanent, salaried staff; and

1 (2) that offers library services to the public
2 for at least twenty-five hours per week;

3 C. "rural library" means a library that is
4 established:

5 (1) through an ordinance or legal resolution
6 adopted by a political subdivision of the state and is located
7 in ~~[a municipality with a population at the time of the~~
8 ~~library's establishment of three thousand or less or is located~~
9 ~~in an unincorporated area of the state]~~:

10 (a) an unincorporated area of the state;

11 or

12 (b) a municipality with a population on
13 or after July 1, 2019 of three thousand or less;

14 (2) by a legal resolution of a tribal
15 government in New Mexico ~~[and is located in a census designated~~
16 ~~place with a population at the time of the library's~~
17 ~~establishment of three thousand or less; or]~~ with a tribal
18 population on or after July 1, 2019 of three thousand or less;

19 or

20 (3) as a corporation with tax-exempt status
21 pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal
22 Revenue Code of 1986 and is located in: ~~[a municipality with a~~
23 ~~population at the time of the library's establishment of three~~
24 ~~thousand or less or is located in an unincorporated area of the~~
25 ~~state]~~

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1 (a) an unincorporated area of the state;

2 or

3 (b) a municipality with a population on
4 or after July 1, 2019 of three thousand or less; and

5 D. "specialized services" means professional
6 development opportunities, program support, information
7 technology support and other capacity-building services, as
8 defined by the state librarian."

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