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

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

1 thousand.

2 C. The state librarian shall use money allocated
3 for specialized services to rural libraries from the rural
4 libraries endowment fund distribution to provide specialized
5 services to rural libraries."

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

8 "18-18-4. DEFINITIONS.--As used in Sections 18-18-1
9 through 18-18-4 NMSA 1978, and to the extent allowed by law:

10 A. "developing rural library" means a rural
11 library whose library staff, whether salaried or volunteer,
12 is dedicated to delivering library services to the public for
13 at least fifteen hours per week and on at least two days each
14 week;

15 B. "established rural library" means a rural
16 library:

17 (1) with permanent, salaried staff; and

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

20 C. "rural library" means a library that is
21 established:

22 (1) through an ordinance or legal resolution
23 adopted by a political subdivision of the state and is
24 located in:

25 (a) an unincorporated area of the

1 state; or

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

4 (2) by a legal resolution of a tribal
5 government in New Mexico with a tribal population on or after
6 July 1, 2019 of three thousand or less; or

7 (3) as a corporation with tax-exempt status
8 pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal
9 Revenue Code of 1986 and is located in:

10 (a) an unincorporated area of the
11 state; or

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

14 D. "specialized services" means professional
15 development opportunities, program support, information
16 technology support and other capacity-building services, as
17 defined by the state librarian."

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