



FY2020 Legislative Agenda

7000-9401

State Aid to Regional Libraries (MLS & LFC)

Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

MLS provides statewide delivery of Interlibrary Loan items that patrons request through library networks. This gives residents access to more than 53.5 million items statewide, saves libraries a total of \$55 million each year, and ensures that no matter where a person lives he/she has equal access to library resources.

Delivery is in jeopardy

The cost of delivery has increased 45% since 2011. State funding to support delivery has not kept pace with rising costs. Some libraries no longer receive delivery, there are delays in delivery, and last year some libraries paid a fee for the delivery sorting process.

Increased funding will stabilize delivery and support statewide resource sharing.

Library for the Commonwealth (LFC)

The Library for the Commonwealth at the Boston Public Library expands access for all Massachusetts residents to collections, reference and research assistance, education, skill-building tools, and our shared cultural heritage. It also provides instant access to online services including eBooks, downloadable audiobooks and music, and streaming media.

Collections have been reduced

Some database services, audiobook access, and eBook collections have been eliminated and budgets for collections have been reduced, especially for electronic resources and eBooks. In addition, outreach to underserved populations has been cut back.

Increased funding will restore some electronic resources and allow for broadened digitization efforts across the Commonwealth.

7000-9506

Library Technology & Resource Sharing (Library Networks)

When it comes to technology, a lot has changed since 2001. Yet funding to support library technology is 36% lower than it was in 2001. While this budget line received a significant increase in FY2019, nearly two decades of underfunding means much work remains in order to bring library technology fully into the 21st century.

Increased funding will be used to invest in technology that provides patrons better access to materials and to increase digital collections offered to patrons including eBooks, audio books, and streaming audio and music.

Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP)

A New Capital Construction Bond is Needed

The MBLC is requesting \$250 million in new bond funding for this successful program. Without it 18 projects that are currently on the MPLCP waitlist will not be funded. The funding will also be used for a future Planning and Design grant round and a new Construction grant round.

Raise the Annual Cap

If the annual capital budget for the MPLCP stays at \$20 million the last project on the waiting list will be funded in 2028, completed in 2033. The longer a community goes without being able to start its project, the higher the construction costs will be. The MBLC is asking to raise the cap to \$25 million starting in FY 2020 to shorten the process.




Proven Success

Since 1987, MBLC library building staff have guided communities through 250 projects. The program is nationally recognized and serves as a model for other states.

See reverse for more information



FY2020 MBLC Budget Request

Line Item	High	FY 2019	FY 2020 Request	FY 2019 Increase Over FY 2018
7000-9101 Board of Library Commissioners	Current Year	\$1,275,000	\$1,313,250	\$38,250
7000-9401 State Aid to Regional Libraries (Massachusetts Library System - MLS) (Library for the Commonwealth at Boston Public Library- LFC)	\$17,623,954 (FY 2002)	\$10,282,140  41% from high	\$11,516,000	\$1,233,860
7000-9402 Talking Book Library (Worcester)	Current Year	\$454,966	\$468,217	\$13,251
7000-9406 Talking Book & Machine Lending (Perkins)	Current Year	\$2,588,155	\$2,665,800	\$77,645
7000-9501 State Aid to Public Libraries	\$9,989,844 (FY 2009)	\$9,612,700*  3% from high	\$9,901,081	\$288,381
7000-9506 Library Technology & Resource Sharing (Library Networks)	\$4,420,235 (FY 2001)	\$2,815,928  36% from high	\$3,259,000	\$443,072
7000-9508 Mass. Center for the Book	Current Year	\$200,000	\$206,000	\$6,000
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		\$27,228,889	\$29,329,348	

Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners is seeking a new \$250 million bond authorization to support the successful Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP). The MBLC is also requesting that the annual budget cap be increased from \$20 million to \$25 million.

* Includes \$250,000 in earmarks.