Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, I am State Librarian Mary Soucie. I am here to provide information related to SB2778 which requests that the Legislative Council consider studying the retention of library materials when a new version is published, an analysis of the impact of artificial intelligence on retention of library materials as well as the updating of published works, and the fiscal and operations impact of collection development.

If Legislative Management were to choose this study, the State Library is ready to assist with the research and the determination of the feasibility and desirability of retaining library materials. Many of the libraries maintained by state agencies already operate under a collection development policy which provides the framework for materials added to or removed from the collection. Materials are withdrawn from a collection for a variety of reasons including usage, condition, relevancy, and the availability of the material at other libraries.

The study would also require an analysis of how artificial intelligence (AI) has or will affect the retention of library materials and how library materials are being updated or altered using AI. Artificial Intelligence is a rapidly developing technology and resource, and there are several positive ways in which artificial intelligence can impact libraries. There are practical applications of AI in libraries including assisting with answering reference questions, creating FAQs, providing reader's advisory, creating marketing materials, and library cataloging.

However, there do not appear to be current applications of AI regarding the retention of library materials. Collection development policies are still the standard for adding/ removing materials. Publishers are exploring AI technologies to determine how they can best utilize the technology to improve the process and outcomes without replacing the human touch. AI is being leveraged by some publishers to speed the editing process and to translate books. AI is currently being tested for use in audiobooks by Amazon.

The Senate Education Committee amended the study to include the fiscal and operational impact of collection development at the request of the Chancellor's Office and the State Library. The study should consider the impact of retaining multiple copies of a title and how that practice fits with adopted collection development policies and best practices.

In conclusion, I acknowledge the intent of this legislation to explore the evolving landscape of library collections, particularly in the context of changing language and the influence of artificial intelligence. State Library staff are available to collaborate with the Legislative Management and provide further information or assistance as the study progresses.

Chairman Heinert and members of the committee, this concludes my testimony. I stand for any questions.