

**2025 HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION**

**HB 1420**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Finance and Taxation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1420  
1/20/2025

Relating to state aid to public libraries.
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10:00 a.m. Chairman Headland opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Headland, Representatives Anderson, Dockter, Dressler, Foss, Grueneich, Ista, Motschenbacher, Nehring, Olson, Steiner, Toman

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Hagert, Representative Porter

### **Discussion Topics:**

- State Library Coordinating Council
- State grants vs federal grants distribution
- Statutory language

10:01 a.m. Representative Eric Murphy, ND Legislative Assembly, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #30065.

### **Additional written testimony:**

Susan Dingle submitted testimony in favor #29978.

10:04 a.m. Chairman Headland closed the hearing.

*Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk*

**HB1420**  
**Bill Testimony**  
**Rep. Eric J. Murphy**  
**District 43, Grand Forks**

This bill is introduced on behalf of the State Librarian. The intent of this bill is to clarify that the State Library Coordinating Council referenced in NDCC 54-24.4-05 is responsible for the distribution of **state funded** grants. This clearly defines that their authority lies in distribution of these state funded grants and distinguishes these grants for federal funding grants over which they have no authority.

This is a simple change in wording that was brought to my attention by the State Librarian, who is in support of this language change.

HB 1420 is a worthy bill. Public libraries are funded through local property taxes and through state and federal grants, when they are made available. Public libraries are open to all and provide many services to their users—from loaning books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks; to e-books; to offering book clubs and free movies; to offering free access to computers [such as the one I am writing this message on]; and more. State grants help libraries better afford library materials, as library materials, like many other things, are increasing in cost. PLEASE PASS THIS BILL.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Finance and Taxation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1420  
1/21/2025

Relating to state aid to public libraries.
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10:10 a.m. Chairman Headland opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Headland, Representatives Anderson, Dockter, Dressler, Foss, Grueneich, Ista, Motschenbacher, Nehring, Olson, Steiner, Toman

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Hagert, Representative Porter

### Discussion Topics:

- Purpose of clarification
- Coordinating council's purpose
- State grants vs Federal grants

10:11 a.m. Mary Sousie, State Librarian, ND State Library, stood for questions from the committee and submitted testimony #30493.

10:14 a.m. Chairman closed the hearing.

10:14 a.m. Representative Ista moved a Do Pass.

10:14 a.m. Representative Foss seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Headland	Y
Representative Hagert	AB
Representative D. Anderson	Y
Representative Dockter	Y
Representative Dressler	Y
Representative Grueneich	Y
Representative Motschenbacher	Y
Representative Nehring	Y
Representative J. Olson	Y
Representative Porter	AB
Representative Steiner	Y
Representative Toman	Y
Representative Foss	Y
Representative Ista	Y

10:14 a.m. Motion passed 12-0-2.

10:14 a.m. Representative Foss will carry the bill.

10:15 a.m. Chairman Headland closed the meeting.

*Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1420 ([25.1098.01000](#))**

**Finance and Taxation Committee (Rep. Headland, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1420 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**TESTIMONY ON HB1420  
FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE  
MARY J. SOUCIE, STATE LIBRARIAN**

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Representative Headland and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am State Librarian Mary Soucie, and I would like to provide information and support for HB1420. The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council (NDLCC) is the Governor appointed Advisory Board for the State Library. The 11-member council includes representatives from public, academic, and K-12 school libraries, the North Dakota Library Association President or President's Designee, two at-large librarians, and two at-large citizens. The State Librarian is a non-voting ex officio member. The NDLCC operates under Century Code chapter §54-24-4.

The State Library receives general fund dollars to administer the Library Vision grant program and the State Aid to Public Libraries grant program. The NDLCC reviews and awards the Library Vision grants. The State Library staff administers the State Aid for Public Libraries grant program in accordance with Century Code chapter §54-24.2.

The State Library receives federal funds from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Library and Services Technology Act (LSTA). The State Library adopts and evaluates a five-year plan in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The State Librarian has the authority to distribute grants to libraries within the limits of legislative appropriations per §54-24-03(17). The state library staff will review and award grant applications with federal funds as we have been doing and as the federal program allows for.

HB1420 clarifies that the Library Coordinating Council approves the awarding of state funded grants, excepting the State Aid for Public Libraries grant program. The Library Coordinating Council meets quarterly to review and award Library Vision grants and to provide input to the State Library on our services and programs. The Council meets at least twice per year in person and tours local libraries to gain insight into the needs of the libraries and to assess the impact of the grants. The State Library generally opens the grant opportunities three times per fiscal year. This may vary depending on the amount of funds that are expended each time. Occasionally, we will offer a fourth grant opportunity. Having to meet additional times to award federal grants would make it more difficult for representatives from our small and rural public and K-12 school libraries to serve on the council since they are often one or two person libraries. The language change in HB1420 related to the Library Coordination Council's duties will provide clarity to the North Dakota library community and the Council members.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.



**2025 SENATE EDUCATION**

**HB 1420**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1420  
3/10/2025

Relating to state aid to public libraries.
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11:30 a.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Beard; Vice-Chairman Lemm; Senators: Axtman, Boschee, Gerhardt, and Wobbema.

### Discussion Topics:

- Distribution of state funded grants

11:30 a.m. Representative Murphy, District #43, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #39816.

11:31 a.m. Mary Soucie, State Librarian ND State Library, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39646.

11:37 a.m. Senator Boschee moved Do Pass.

11:37 a.m. Senator Axtman seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Mike Wobbema	AB

Motion passed 5-0-1

Senator Beard will carry the bill.

### Additional written testimony:

Andrea Placher, Library Director Williston Community Library, submitted testimony in favor #39674.

Anita Tulip, Director Valley City Barnes County Public Library, submitted testimony in favor #39649.

11:40 a.m. Chairman Beard adjourned the meeting.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1420 ([25.1098.01000](#))**

**Education Committee (Sen. Beard, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1420 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



**TESTIMONY ON HB1420**  
**FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**  
**MARY J. SOUCIE, STATE LIBRARIAN**

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Chairman Beard and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am State Librarian Mary Soucie, and I am testifying in support of HB1420. The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council (NDLCC) is the Governor appointed Advisory Board for the State Library. The 11-member council includes representatives from public, academic, and K-12 school libraries, the North Dakota Library Association President or President's Designee, two at-large librarians, and two at-large citizens. The State Librarian is a non-voting ex officio member. The NDLCC operates under Century Code chapter §54-24-4.

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Having to meet additional times to award federal grants would make it more difficult for representatives from our small and rural public and K-12 school libraries to serve on the council since they are often one or two person libraries. The language change in HB1420 related to the Library Coordination Council's duties will provide clarity to the North Dakota library community and the Council members. It also aligns Century Code to current practices.

Thank you for your time. I will stand for any questions.

March 8, 2025

Dear Chairperson and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Anita Tulp, and I am the Director of the Valley City Barnes County Public Library. I am writing to you in support of HB 1420.

State Aid for Public Libraries helps us serve our community better by providing funds that can be used to implement programs and services, or to increase our budget for library materials. The state funded Library Vision Grants give us the opportunity to develop new ways to increase our ability to serve our community better. For instance, last year we applied for a Library Vision Grant for Public Spaces. We received a wonderful grant that allowed us to implement new shelving so we could create a conversation area for small groups in the library. The grant also covered the purchase of some of the furniture needed for this area. Our community is very excited about this area and the way it makes our library more welcoming for events like study groups or just visiting with friends. Our Library Board of Directors has decided to complete this area with the furniture we need to make it even more welcoming.

It is my understanding that this bill will clarify who is responsible for approving and allocating these state funded grants. I know that our library appreciates the dedication of the Library Coordinating Council in helping libraries like ours create and implement programs and facilities that meet the needs of our population now and in the future. Please vote "Do Pass" for HB 1420.

Thank you for your time.

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Dear Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to support HB1420. My name is Andrea Placher, and I am the Director of the Williston Community Library. Having served on the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council (NDLCC) for almost four years, I have had the honor of assisting dozens of libraries receive grants using appropriated funds from the State Library, ranging from new books collections to updated furniture and so much more.

Keeping the grants simple with state funding versus federal funding ensures library staff from all library types are able to apply for these grants as well as serve on the NDLCC. Please consider a DO PASS on HB1420.

Sincerely,

Andrea Placher  
Williston Community Library

**HB1420**  
**Bill Testimony**  
**Rep. Eric J. Murphy**  
**District 43, Grand Forks**

Chairman Beard and colleagues on the Senate Educations committee. This bill is introduced on behalf of the State Librarian. The intent of this bill is to clarify that the State Library Coordinating Council referenced in NDCC 54-24.4-05 is responsible for the distribution of **state funded** grants. This clearly defines that their authority lies in distribution of these state funded grants and distinguishes these grants from federal funding grants over which they have no authority.

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