

**SFA**

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

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**Senate Bill 460 (Substitute S-1 as reported)****Sponsor: Senator Dan L. DeGrow****Committee: Education and Mental Health****Date Completed: 10-21-87**

Mich. State Law Library

**RATIONALE**

The time when a school library was the source of just books, magazines, and a few movies has gone the way of the slide rule and McGuffey reader. The information explosion has changed the concept and operation of school libraries. With the increasing availability and use of technology by Michigan's public schools, the school library has now become the school library media center program. Michigan schools reportedly have spent millions of dollars in the past decade to provide instructional resources and related equipment to develop media centers. Some of the activities provided to schools through media centers include access to national electronic data bases, the use of "electronic blackboards", and the coordination of computer and telecommunications. With the development of network activities between K-12 school districts and community colleges, colleges, and universities, along with the growing use of regional and statewide satellite and cable link-ups, some people believe that local districts should be assisted in the their development of a library media center, as well as a total technology program.

**CONTENT**

The bill would amend the School Code to:

- Permit the board of a local school district to establish a district library media center and library media centers in each school building within the school district.
- Provide for the appointment by the State Board of Education of a Library Media Center Advisory Committee.
- Establish membership for the Library Media Center Advisory Committee, and specify the Committee's responsibilities.
- Require the Department of Education, upon request of a local district, to advise a school district on the selection, establishment, and maintenance of library media center programs and to distribute information on these programs to school districts.
- Define "media collection" and "library media center program".

**Department Responsibilities**

Upon request by a local district and based on the criteria established by the Advisory Committee and approved by the State Board, the Department of Education would be required to do both of the following:

- Advise a school district on how to establish and maintain an effective library media center program.
- Select model library media center programs and distribute information regarding these programs to school districts.

"Library media center program" would mean any district program that did all of the following:

- Provided students reading, viewing, and listening experiences that reinforced and extended classroom instruction.
- Assisted students in developing skills in locating, selecting, and evaluating media forms.
- Assisted teachers in designing, organizing, analyzing, implementing, and evaluating media oriented learning activities.
- Established a procedure of selecting and developing a media collection that met the needs of its users.
- Organized and maintained materials that comprised a media collection.
- Planned, administered, and evaluated a library media center program including, but not limited to, the planning of needed equipment and production facilities; the developing, proposing, and justifying of media budgets; and the selecting, training, and supervising of library media center staff.
- Provided assistance to students and teachers engaged in the design and creation of library media center materials.
- Assisted in the maintenance and acquisition of professional resources for teachers and administrators.
- Worked cooperatively with the Department, the regional educational media center, and a regional library established pursuant to Public Act 250 of 1931, which provides for the establishment and maintenance of regional libraries.

"Media collection" would mean teaching and learning materials, including books, periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers, monographs, microfilms, moving picture films, video tapes, computer programs, filmstrips, slides, transparencies, sound recordings, maps, globes, graphic materials, "realia", display boards, and other instructional aids and materials.

**Role of the Advisory Committee**

The State Board would be required to appoint a Library Media Center Advisory Committee which would be required to do both of the following:

- Create, review, revise, and recommend to the State Board, criteria for the establishment and maintenance of an effective library media center program.
- Report annually to the State Board on the status of library media center programs including, but not limited to, recommendations on how to improve current library media center programs.

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## Committee Membership

The Advisory Committee would have to consist of not more than 16 members who collectively represented a balance among various geographic regions of the State, various grade levels, and districts with various population sizes. The Advisory Committee would have to meet at least quarterly, and annually would be required to elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary from its members. A majority of the Advisory Committee members would have to be library media specialists. Other members could include, but not be limited to, classroom teachers, members of local education associations, and representatives of regional education media centers.

Of the members of the Advisory Committee first appointed,

one-half would have to be appointed to one-year terms and one-half appointed to two-year terms. Upon completion of the first terms, all members of the Advisory Committee would be required to serve for two-year terms.

The State Board would be required to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Committee by appointment. The person appointed would be required to serve for the balance of the unexpired term.

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## FISCAL IMPACT

The Michigan Department of Education could incur costs of approximately \$68,900 under the provisions of Senate Bill 460 (S-1) as follows:

| Cost Factor                                | Purposes  | Estimate            |          |
|--|---|---------------------|----------|
| New Professional Staff Position            | Select model programs and distribute information to school districts  | Salary & Wages      | 41,300   |
|  |   | Fringes             | 12,700   |
|  |   | CSS&M*              | 5,000    |
|  |   | Travel              | 2,000    |
|  |   | Rent                | 1,500    |
|  | Advise districts on establishing and maintaining programs   | Subtotal            | 62,500   |
| Advisory Commission travel and CSS&M costs | Enable Advisory Commission to establish program criteria, prepare reports to Board, and make recommendations for program improvements | (16 members) ×      |          |
|  |   | (4 meetings) ×      |          |
|  |   | (\$100 per meeting) |          |
|  |   | Subtotal            | 6,400    |
| TOTAL ESTIMATED COST                       |   |                     | \$68,900 |

\*CSS&M = Contractual Services, Supplies, and Materials

The costs to local school districts of Senate Bill 460 are indeterminate. Such costs would depend on the degree to which school library media centers as described under the bill already exist and the extent of media center enhancement individual school districts would choose to support. Accurate statewide data on the number of the State's 565 local school districts (K-12 and non-K-12) that have library media centers are not currently available. However, Department of Education data do indicate that approximately half of the State's 3,250 school buildings have certified teachers who serve as librarians, who tend to manage media collections.

## ARGUMENTS

### Supporting Argument

The bill would provide one of the bases for the implementation of the Education Technology Plan, which was adopted by the State Board of Education in September 1987, and calls for the integration of computers and related technology into the instructional process as well as providing for training and dissemination of information on using technology in teaching. Some activities already are taking place through the Computer Literacy and Education Technology Grant Program in which \$500,000 of a \$650,000 grant, which was appropriated for the Department in the 1987-88 budget, is being used for planning the integration of technology into instructional programs. In addition, the Department also was appropriated in the 1987-88 budget special project funds to provide grants for the use of cable television in instruction. Furthermore, Section 98 of the State Aid Act provides funds for professional development programs dealing with the instructional process, and requiring that the computers be incorporated into that process. Despite

these activities, there needs to be a greater emphasis on the use of technology as an instructional tool.

### Supporting Argument

The State Department of Education is one of only four state departments of education throughout the country that do not have a school library media program. The other 46 states have programs which range from a single consultant to multistaffed programs with several specialty units. Michigan must recognize, as a majority of states already have, that today's students will be functioning in a media-dominated world and because of that students need guidance in the use and effect of these technologies.

### Supporting Argument

The Teacher Preparation and Certification Services area of the Department of Education has prepared new certification recommendations for library media specialists, which the State Board currently is reviewing. The strengthening of certification requirements suggests that there is a need for the development of a Department program to guide local school districts in the effective use of staff to implement established criteria.

### Opposing Argument

Local districts have been developing media centers for a number of years. Since local districts already are able to establish media centers and can call upon groups, such as the Michigan Association for Media in Education, to assist in organizing a media center, the bill seems unnecessary. Furthermore, any additional staffing in the Department of Education to provide this assistance should not be considered until the State has met the need for improving basic skills and academic achievement as well.

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as the requirements of special students. Therefore, a support service as provided in the bill should be delayed.

**Response:** While many schools have established media centers, few school districts have developed a plan for the entire district on the use of technology in instruction. Furthermore, use of technology in the classroom often has depended on the interest of a particular teacher. For example, a science or mathematics teacher may have taken the initiative to use computers in his or her classes, but there is no coordinated effort to plan curricula for an entire school district based on the use of technology. Thus, the efforts to integrate technology and instruction have been piecemeal. The bill would help coordinate the use of technology within a district and within each school building, as well as promote the design of instructional programs using computers and other technology through the dissemination of information on computer-and technology-aided instruction.

### ***Opposing Argument***

The bill contains no provision for funding and funds have not been appropriated to the Department of Education to support a staff position to carry out the activities required in the bill. Currently, no one in the Department is formally assigned these responsibilities.

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.