

# Legislative Analysis

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## SCHOOL DISTRICTS: CREATING NEW DISTRICT LIBRARIES

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### House Bill 5597

**Sponsor: Rep. Adam F. Zemke**  
**Committee: Local Government**  
**Complete to 11-12-14**

### A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5597 AS INTRODUCED 5-22-14

House Bill 5597 would amend the District Library Establishment Act (MCL 397.172) to eliminate the January 1, 2015, sunset that prohibits school districts from establishing a new district library after that date.

Currently the act defines the term "municipality" as follows: *municipality means a city, village, school district, township or county. Municipality shall not include a school district for the purpose of establishing a new district library after January 1, 2015.* House Bill 5597 would eliminate the underlined portion of the definition.

In addition, the bill changes the definition of the term "department" by eliminating a reference to the now disbanded Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, and substituting, instead, the Department of Education, which is now responsible for administering library services.

Finally, the bill changes the definition of the term "state librarian" to mean the Department of Education (eliminating a reference to the librarian appointed under Section 5 of the Library of Michigan Act).

### FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5597 would have no fiscal impact on the state and a possible, but indeterminate revenue increase for local units of government. The bill would allow local libraries the possibility of increasing their funding base as a district library. Becoming a district library may allow a local library to access additional funding streams, a higher millage rate, and a larger tax base.

This bill may impact at least two public libraries considering conversion to district libraries: Milan Public Library (Milan Area Schools) and Stair Public Library (Morenci Public Schools). These libraries may have difficulty making the deadline of January 1, 2015 for completing paperwork in applying for district library status.

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