

# PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICTS INFORMATION SHEET

**Goal:** *To allow for the creation of public library districts in South Dakota*

## Details:

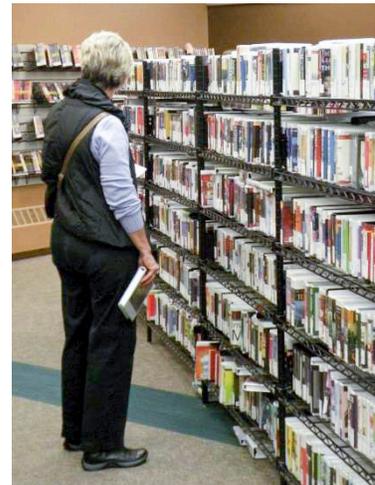
- Existing district laws need to be modified to include the voluntary formation of cross-jurisdictional public library districts, subject to a vote of impacted voters
- Libraries with expanding population bases that cross taxing governance authorities would be allowed to develop appropriate bases of support

## Funding:

- Because of the voluntary nature of this legislation, no costs would be incurred unless a district was proposed and passed by a vote of the impacted voters

## Background:

- Library districts are possible in more than 15 states, with the purpose of using stable funding to expand library services into rural, unincorporated, and fringe development populations
- South Dakota law provides for the formation of districts for community services such as ambulance, fire protection, business, school, sanitary, and water, which are funded by multi-city, city-county, and multi-county jurisdictions
- Libraries have been restricted in attempts to provide sustainable services to populations that cross multiple jurisdictional lines



## Public Libraries as Community Safety Zones

**Goal:** *To designate public libraries as community safety zones*

### Details:

- Existing law designates schools and public parks, playgrounds and pools as community safety zones.
- Designating public libraries as community safety zones will make it illegal for sexual offenders to use the library for the purpose of making contact with children.



### Background:

- Public libraries in South Dakota are community gathering places for people of all ages and backgrounds. As such, public safety is a priority for all South Dakota public libraries.
- To ensure the safety of children visiting the library, registered sex offenders should be prohibited from using public libraries for the primary purpose of observing or contacting children.
- Designating public libraries as community safety zones would not prohibit registered sex offenders from using their public libraries to obtain library services. The community safety zone designation would only prohibit the use of the library for the primary purpose of contacting or observing children.

