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**HOUSE BILL 2106**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representative Schmick

Prefiled 01/03/24.

1       AN ACT Relating to library districts with an annexed city or  
2 town; amending RCW 27.12.320; and adding a new section to chapter  
3 27.12 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5       **Sec. 1.** RCW 27.12.320 and 1982 c 123 s 12 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7       A library established or maintained under this chapter (except a  
8 regional or a rural county library district library, an intercounty  
9 rural library district library, or an island library district  
10 library) may be abolished only in pursuance of a vote of the electors  
11 of the governmental unit in which the library is located, taken in  
12 the manner prescribed in RCW 27.12.030 for a vote upon the  
13 establishment of a library. If a library of a city or town be  
14 abolished, the books and other printed or written matter belonging to  
15 it shall go to the library of the county whereof the municipality is  
16 a part, if there be a county library, but if not, then to the state  
17 library. If a library of a county or region be abolished, the books  
18 and other printed matter belonging to it shall go to the state  
19 library. All other library property shall be disposed of as the  
20 legislative body of the governmental unit shall direct.

1 After a rural county library district, an island library  
2 district, or an intercounty rural library district has been in  
3 operation for three or more years, it may be dissolved pursuant to a  
4 majority vote of all of the qualified electors residing outside of  
5 incorporated cities and towns and in any area annexed into the  
6 library district voting upon a proposition for its dissolution, at a  
7 general election, which proposition may be placed upon the ballot at  
8 any such election whenever a petition by ten percent or more  
9 qualified voters residing (~~outside of incorporated cities or towns~~)  
10 within a rural county library district, an island library district,  
11 or an intercounty rural library district requesting such dissolution  
12 shall be filed with the board of trustees of such district not less  
13 than ninety days prior to the holding of any such election. An island  
14 library district may also be dissolved pursuant to RCW 27.12.450.

15 If a rural county library district is dissolved, the books and  
16 other printed matter belonging to it shall go to the state library.  
17 All other library property shall be disposed of as the legislative  
18 body of the governmental unit shall direct. When an intercounty rural  
19 library district is dissolved, the books, funds and other property  
20 thereof shall be divided among the participating counties in the most  
21 equitable manner possible as determined by the state librarian, who  
22 shall give consideration to such items as the original source of  
23 property, the amount of funds raised from each county by the  
24 district, and the ability of the counties to make further use of such  
25 property or equipment for library purposes. Printed material which  
26 the state librarian finds will not be used by any of the  
27 participating counties for further library purposes shall be turned  
28 over to the state library.

29 When an island library district is dissolved pursuant to this  
30 section, the books and other printed matter belonging to it shall go  
31 to the state library. All other library property shall be disposed of  
32 as the legislative body of the governmental unit shall direct. When  
33 an island library district is dissolved due to the establishment of a  
34 county library district, pursuant to RCW 27.12.450, all property,  
35 assets, and liabilities of the preexisting island library district  
36 within the area included in the county rural library district shall  
37 pass to and be assumed by the county rural library district:  
38 PROVIDED, That where within any county rural library district  
39 heretofore or hereafter organized under the provisions of this  
40 chapter a preexisting island library district has incurred a bonded

1 indebtedness which was outstanding at the time of the formation of  
2 the county rural library district, the preexisting island library  
3 district shall retain its corporate existence insofar as is necessary  
4 for the purpose until the bonded indebtedness outstanding against it  
5 on and after the effective date of the formation has been paid in  
6 full: PROVIDED FURTHER, That a special election may be called by the  
7 board of trustees of the county rural library district, to be held at  
8 the next general or special election held in the respective counties,  
9 for the purpose of affording the voters residing within the area  
10 outside of the preexisting island library district an opportunity to  
11 assume the obligation of the bonded indebtedness of the preexisting  
12 island library district or the question may be submitted to the  
13 voters as a separate proposition at the election on the proposal for  
14 the formation of the county rural library district.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 27.12  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 If a city or town is annexed into a rural county library  
18 district, island library district, or intercounty library district,  
19 the library's board of trustees must be modified so that people  
20 within the city or town have representation on the board of trustees.

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