## As Amended by Senate Committee

## As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2023

## **HOUSE BILL No. 2176**

By Representatives Rhiley and Roth

1-25

AN ACT concerning {libraries; relating to }library districts; creating the Arkansas city area public library district act and the Udall area public library district act; requiring an election to create such district; authorizing a tax levy therefor; {establishing the blind information access act; requiring the state librarian to contract with an organization to provide on-demand information access services to persons who are blind, visually impaired, deafblind or print disabled; establishing the blind information access fund; requiring the transfer of moneys from the Kansas universal service fund to provide for such services;} amending K.S.A. {66-2010 and }75-2554 and repealing the existing sections}.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:* 

New Section 1. When used in this act and unless otherwise specifically provided therein:

- (a) "Board of education" means the board of education of unified school district No. 470;
  - (b) "city" means the city of Arkansas city, Kansas;
  - (c) "county" means Cowley county;
- (d) "library" means a library that serves the general public and is supported in whole or in part with tax moneys and shall be called the Arkansas city area library district;
- (e) "library district" means all territory located within the boundaries of unified school district No. 470; and
- (f) "library district board" means the library district board of trustees appointed {elected} pursuant to the provisions of this act.

New Sec. 2. (a) The board of trustees of the Arkansas city public library may adopt a resolution proposing to create a library district and stating the proposed tax levy amount for the library district. Copies of the resolutions shall be filed with the county election officer, who shall call and hold an election thereon in the manner provided by the general bond law.

- (b) If a majority of the qualified electors of the proposed library district vote in favor of the proposition:
- (1) A library district shall be established and maintained, and a library district board shall be appointed {elected} as provided in this act;
- (2) all contracts entered into by the Arkansas city public library shall be binding on the library district board—appointed {elected} pursuant to section 3, and amendments thereto; and
- (3) all outstanding bonds, debts and other obligations of the Arkansas city public library shall become an obligation of the Arkansas city area library district, except that all bonds and debts relating to the ownership or improvement of the real property on which the Arkansas city public library operates shall remain an obligation of the city of Arkansas city, Kansas.
- New Sec. 3. (a) Any library district created pursuant to the provisions of this act shall be governed by a board of trustees. The board shall consist of seven members. Four members shall be appointed by the governing body of the city of Arkansas city with one such member residing outside the city. Three members shall be appointed by the board of education and shall reside outside the city of Arkansas city {The members shall be elected at the first general election held after the creation of such library district. Three members shall serve an initial term of two years and four members shall serve an initial term of four years. Thereafter, each member shall serve terms of four years. The board of trustees of the Arkansas city public library shall establish the district boundaries for each board position on the board of trustees of the library district and designate which board positions will serve an initial term of four years}.
- (b) Members of the board of directors of the Arkansas city public library serving prior to the election creating the library district shall remain on the board until the expiration of the term for which the member was originally appointed. Such members shall be eligible for reappointment [members elected to the library district board are sworn into office].
- (c) Members of the library district board shall be appointed for a term of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. No person who has been appointed for two consecutive four-year terms to the library board shall be eligible for further appointment to the library board until one year after the expiration of the second term. Vacancies on the library district board shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term {of the remaining members of the library district board}.
- (d) Members of the library district board shall receive no compensation but shall be paid their actual and necessary expenses in attending meetings and in carrying out their duties as members of the board.
  - New Sec. 4. (a) Each year, the members of the library district board

shall meet and organize by the election of a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as they may deem necessary. The board shall fix the date and place of its regular meetings, and special meetings may be called by the chairperson or upon written request of a majority of the members. Written notice, stating the time and place of any special meeting and the purpose for which called, unless waived, shall be given to each member of the board at least two days in advance of such meeting, and no business other than business stated in the notice shall be transacted at such meeting.

- (b) The treasurer of the library district board shall give bond in an amount fixed by the library district board and approved by the board of education. The bond shall be filed with the county clerk.
- (c) The county treasurer shall pay over to the treasurer of the library district board all funds collected for the maintenance and support of the library district, and the treasurer of the library district board shall pay out the funds on orders of the board signed by the secretary and chairperson. Such treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all moneys received and disbursed and make a report to the library board monthly, or as often as the board requires.
- New Sec. 5. The library shall be free for the use of the residents of the library district, subject to reasonable rules and regulations as the library district board may adopt. The library district board may exclude from the use of the library any person who shall willfully violate such rules. The library district board may extend the use and privilege of such library to nonresidents of the district, charge nonresidents a reasonable fee and make exchanges of books with any other library upon such terms and conditions as the library district board may prescribe.
- New Sec. 6. The library district board shall constitute a body corporate and politic, possessing the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes and may contract, sue and be sued and acquire, hold and convey real and personal property in accordance with law. Further, the board shall have the power to:
- (a) Make and adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the library;
- (b) purchase or lease a site or sites and to lease or to erect a building or buildings for the use of the library;
- (c) acquire by purchase, gift or exchange any books, magazines, papers, printed materials, slides, pictures, films, projection equipment, phonograph records and other materials and equipment deemed necessary by the board for the maintenance and extension of modern library services;
- (d) employ a librarian and such other employees as the board deems necessary, to remove such employees and to fix their compensation;
  - (e) establish and maintain a library or libraries and traveling library

services within the district or within any other municipality with which service contract arrangements have been made;

- (f) contract with other libraries or with the governing body of a municipality for the furnishing of library services to the inhabitants of such municipality to the extent and upon such terms as may be agreed upon and to contract with any school board to furnish library services to any school library or to use the library facilities of the public school to supplement the facilities of the public library;
- (g) receive, accept and administer any moneys appropriated or granted to it by the state or the federal government or any agency or subdivision thereof for the purpose of aiding or providing library services;
- (h) receive and accept any gift or donation to the library and administer the same in accordance with any provisions thereof. If no provisions are specified, the board shall have the power to hold, invest or reinvest the gift and any dividends, interest, rent or income derived from the gift in the manner the board deems will best serve the interests of the library;
- (i) receive and accept any grant, gift, donation or appropriated or other funds from the United States government, or its agencies, or any other source whatsoever for the purposes of the library district established under this act;
- (j) make annual reports to the state librarian and the governing body of the board of education each year for the preceding calendar year showing receipts and disbursements from all funds under its control and showing such statistical information relating to library materials acquired and on hand, number of library users, library services available and other information of general interest as the governing body requires; and
- (k) place moneys received from sources other than a tax levy for library purposes in a separate fund or funds or in the fund to which the tax levy moneys are credited, unless the grantor or donor directs how and for what purpose the money shall be spent.
- New Sec. 7. (a) The library district board shall prepare an annual budget for the maintenance, support and operation of the library. Prior to the certification of its budget to the board of education, the library district board shall meet for the purpose of answering and hearing objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget and for the purpose of considering amendments to such proposed budget. The library district board shall give at least 10 days' notice of the time and place of the meeting by publication in a weekly or daily newspaper having general circulation in the taxing district. Such notice shall include the proposed budget and shall set out all essential items in the budget. The public hearing required to be held shall be held not less than 10 days prior to the date on which the library board is required to certify its budget to the

board of education. After such hearing, the budget shall be adopted or amended and adopted by the library district board by passage of a resolution. A copy of the budget shall be filed with the clerk of the board of education and the Cowley county clerk.

- (b) Any resolution adopted under subsection (a) shall state the total amount of the tax to be levied for the library district by the board of education. The resolution shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the taxing district. Such tax levy shall be levied on behalf of the library district by the board of education.
- (c) Such tax levy amount may be levied in each successive budget year unless a petition requesting an election upon the proposition to increase the tax levy in excess of the current tax levy, signed by at least 5% of the qualified voters of the taxing district, is filed with the county election officer within 30 days following the date of the last publication of the resolution. In the event a valid petition is filed, no such increased levy shall be made without such proposition having been submitted to and approved by a majority of the voters of the taxing district voting at an election.
- (d) Any such election shall be called and held in the manner provided by the general bond law, and the cost of the election shall be paid by the library district board. Such taxes shall be levied and collected in like manner as other taxes, and the board of education shall certify such levy to the county clerk, who is hereby authorized to levy tax on behalf of the library district.
- (e) The tax levy provided in this section shall not be considered to be a tax levy of the board of education.
- (f) All financial records of the library board shall be audited as provided in K.S.A. 75- 1122, and amendments thereto, and a copy of such annual audit report shall be filed with the board of education and with the Cowley county clerk. The cost of each audit shall be paid by the library district board.
- (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the date the tax levy provided for in this act takes effect, no tax levy on land within the library district created by this act shall be imposed, required or collected for any subsequent calendar year to support a regional system of cooperating libraries. On such date, the Arkansas city public library shall cease to be a participating library in the south central Kansas library system. Such library district may submit a petition to join the south central Kansas library system as a participating library.

New Sec. 8. Sections 1 through 8, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the Arkansas city area public library district act.

 New Sec. 9. When used in this act and unless otherwise specifically provided therein:

- (a) "Board of education" means the board of education of unified school district No. 463;
  - (b) "city" means the city of Udall, Kansas;
  - (c) "county" means Cowley county;
- (d) "library" means a library that serves the general public and is supported in whole or in part with tax moneys and shall be called the Udall area public district library;
- (e) "library district" means all territory located within the boundaries of unified school district No. 463; and
- (f) "library district board" means the library district board of trustees <u>appointed</u> {elected} pursuant to the provisions of this act.
- New Sec. 10. (a) The board of trustees of the Udall public library may adopt a resolution proposing to create a library district and stating the proposed tax levy amount for the library district. Copies of the resolutions shall be filed with the county election officer, who shall call and hold an election thereon. Such election shall be called and held in the manner provided by the general bond law.
- (b) If a majority of the qualified electors of the proposed library district vote in favor of the proposition:
- (1) A library district shall be established and maintained, and a library district board shall be <u>appointed</u> {elected} as provided in this act:
- (2) all contracts entered into by Udall public library shall be binding on the library district board—appointed {elected} pursuant to section 11, and amendments thereto; and
- (3) all outstanding bonds, debts and other obligations of the Udall public library shall become an obligation of the Udall area library district, except that all bonds and debts relating to the ownership or improvement of the real property on which the Udall public library operates shall remain an obligation of the city of Udall, Kansas.

New Sec. 11. (a) Any library district created pursuant to the provisions of this act shall be governed by a board of trustees. The board shall consist of seven members. Four members shall be appointed by the governing body of the city of Udall with one such member residing outside the city. Three members shall be appointed by the board of education and shall reside outside the city of Udall {The members shall be elected at the first general election held after the creation of such library district. Three members shall serve an initial term of two years and four members shall serve an initial term of four years. Thereafter, each member shall serve terms of four years. The board of trustees of the Udall public library shall establish the district

 boundaries for each board position on the board of trustees of the library district and designate which board positions will serve an initial term of two years and which board positions will serve an initial term of four years}.

- (b) Members of the board of directors of the Udall public library serving prior to the election creating the library district shall remain on the board until the expiration of the term for which the member was originally appointed. Such members shall be eligible for reappointment members elected to the library district board are sworn into office.
- (c) Members of the library district board shall be appointed for a term of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. No person who has been appointed for two consecutive four-year terms to the library board shall be eligible for further appointment to the library board until one year after the expiration of the second term. Vacancies on the library district board shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term of the remaining members of the library district board.
- (d) Members of the library district board shall receive no compensation but shall be paid their actual and necessary expenses in attending meetings and in carrying out their duties as members of the board.
- New Sec. 12. (a) Each year, the members of a library district board shall meet and organize by the election of a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as they may deem necessary. The board shall fix the date and place of its regular meetings, and special meetings may be called by the chairperson or upon written request of a majority of the members. Written notice, stating the time and place of any special meeting and the purpose for which called, unless waived, shall be given to each member of the board at least two days in advance of such meeting, and no business other than business stated in the notice shall be transacted at such meeting.
- (b) The treasurer of the library district board shall give bond in an amount fixed by the library district board and approved by the board of education. The bond shall be filed with the county clerk.
- (c) The county treasurer shall pay over to the treasurer of the library district board all funds collected for the maintenance and support of the library district, and the treasurer of the library district board shall pay out the funds on orders of the board signed by the secretary and chairperson. Such treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all moneys received and disbursed and make a report to the library board monthly, or as often as the board requires.

 New Sec. 13. The library shall be free for the use of the residents of the library district, subject to reasonable rules and regulations as the library district board may adopt. The library board may exclude from the use of the library any and all persons who shall willfully violate such rules. The library board may extend the use and privilege of such library to nonresidents of the district, charge nonresidents a reasonable fee and make exchanges of books with any other library upon such terms and conditions as the library district board may prescribe.

New Sec. 14. The library district board shall constitute a body corporate and politic, possessing the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes and may contract, sue and be sued and acquire, hold and convey real and personal property in accordance with law. Further, the board shall have the power to:

- (a) Make and adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the library;
- (b) purchase or lease a site or sites and to lease or to erect a building or buildings for the use of the library;
- (c) acquire by purchase, gift or exchange any books, magazines, papers, printed materials, slides, pictures, films, projection equipment, phonograph records and other material and equipment deemed necessary by the board for the maintenance and extension of modern library services;
- (d) employ a librarian and such other employees as the board deems necessary, to remove such employees and to fix their compensation;
- (e) establish and maintain a library or libraries and traveling library services within the district or within any other municipality with which service contract arrangements have been made;
- (f) contract with other libraries or with the governing body of a municipality for the furnishing of library services to the inhabitants of such municipality to the extent and upon such terms as may be agreed upon and to contract with any school board to furnish library services to any school library or to use the library facilities of the public school to supplement the facilities of the public library;
- (g) receive, accept and administer any moneys appropriated or granted to it by the state or the federal government or any agency or subdivision thereof for the purpose of aiding or providing library services;
- (h) receive and accept any gift or donation to the library and administer the same in accordance with any provisions thereof. If no provisions are specified, the board shall have the power to hold, invest or re-invest the gift and any dividends, interest, rent or income

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42 43 derived from the gift in the manner the board deems will best serve the interests of the library;

- (i) receive and accept any grant, gift, donation or appropriated or other funds from the United States government, or its agencies, or any other source whatsoever for the purposes of the library district established under this act;
- (j) make annual reports to the state librarian and the governing body of the board of education each year for the preceding calendar year showing receipts and disbursements from all funds under its control and showing such statistical information relating to library materials acquired and on hand, number of library users, library services available and other information of general interest as the governing body requires; and
- (k) place moneys received from sources other than a tax levy for library purposes in a separate fund or funds or in the fund to which the tax levy moneys are credited, unless the grantor or donor directs how and for what purpose the money shall be handled and spent.

New Sec. 15. (a) The library district board shall prepare an annual budget for the maintenance, support and operation of the library. Prior to the certification of its budget to the board of education, the library board shall meet for the purpose of answering and hearing objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget and for the purpose of considering amendments to such proposed budget. The library board shall give at least 10 days' notice of the time and place of the meeting by publication in a weekly or daily newspaper having general circulation in the taxing district. Such notice shall include the proposed budget and shall set out all essential items in the budget. The public hearing required to be held shall be held not less than 10 days prior to the date on which the library board is required to certify its budget to the board of education. After such hearing, the budget shall be adopted or amended and adopted by the library board by passage of a resolution. A copy of the budget shall be filed with the clerk of the board of education and the Cowley county clerk.

- (b) Any resolution adopted under subsection (a) shall state the total amount of the tax to be levied for the library district by the board of education. The resolution shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the taxing district. Such tax levy shall be levied on behalf of the library district by the board of education.
- (c) Such tax levy amount may be levied in each successive budget year unless a petition requesting an election upon the proposition to increase the tax levy in excess of the current tax levy, signed by at least

 5% of the qualified voters of the taxing district, is filed with the county election officer within 30 days following the date of the last publication of the resolution. In the event a valid petition is filed, no such increased levy shall be made without such proposition having been submitted to and approved by a majority of the voters of the taxing district voting at an election.

- (d) Any such election shall be called and held in the manner provided by the general bond law, and the cost of the election shall be paid by the library district board. Such taxes shall be levied and collected in like manner as other taxes, and the board of education shall certify such levy to the county clerk, who is hereby authorized to levy tax on behalf of the library district.
- (e) The tax levy provided in this section shall not be considered to be a tax levy of the board of education.
- (f) All financial records of the library board shall be audited as provided in K.S.A. 75-1122, and amendments thereto, and a copy of such annual audit report shall be filed with the board of education and with the Cowley county clerk. The cost of each audit shall be paid by the library district board.
- (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the date the tax levy provided for in this act takes effect, no tax levy on land within the library district created by this act shall be imposed, required or collected for any subsequent calendar year to support a regional system of cooperating libraries. On such date, the Udall public library shall cease to be a participating library in the south central Kansas library system. Such library district may submit a petition to join the south central Kansas library system as a participating library.
- New Sec. 16. Sections 9 through 16, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the Udall area public library district act.

{New Sec. 17. (a) This act shall be known and may be cited as the blind information access act.

- (b) The state librarian shall estimate the cost of entering into a contract with an organization that delivers on-demand information access services to persons who are blind, visually impaired, deafblind, print disabled or who have another disability. Such services shall provide access to digital content through audio, electronic text and braille reading technologies and other related services, including, but not limited to, Kansas specific publications, national publications, international publications, breaking news sources and localized emergency weather alerts. Such on-demand information access services shall be provided using telecommunication services or internet services
  - (c) On or before November 1 of each year, the state librarian shall

submit a report to the legislature and the state corporation commission that specifies the estimate of the cost to enter into a contract to provide such on-demand information access services and shall certify such cost to the director of accounts and reports and the administrator of the Kansas universal service fund. Upon receipt of such certification, the total amount certified shall be transferred by the administrator of the Kansas universal service fund from the Kansas universal service fund to the state treasurer in the following calendar year by 12 equal monthly installment payments. Upon receipt of each such payment, the state treasurer shall deposit such amount in the state treasury and credit such amount to the blind information access fund.

- (d) Upon receipt of the amount certified pursuant to subsection (c), the state librarian shall enter into or renew the contract required pursuant to this section.
- (e) There is hereby created in the state treasury the blind information access fund. All moneys credited to the blind information access fund shall be used by the state librarian to implement the provisions of this section. All expenditures from the blind information access fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the state librarian or the state librarian's designee.
- (f) The state librarian shall promote the information access services to persons who may be eligible for such services.
- Sec. 18. K.S.A. 66-2010 is hereby amended to read as follows: 66-2010. (a) The commission shall utilize a competitive bidding process to select a neutral, competent and bonded third party to administer the KUSF.
- (b) The administrator shall be responsible for: (1) Collecting and from auditing relevant information all aualifying telecommunications public utilities, telecommunications carriers or wireless telecommunications service providers receiving funds from or providing funds to the KUSF; (2) verifying, based on the calculations of each qualifying telecommunications carrier, telecommunications public utility or wireless telecommunications service provider, the obligation of each such qualifying carrier, utility or provider to generate the funds required by the KUSF; (3) collecting all moneys due to the KUSF from all telecommunications public utilities, telecommunications carriers and wireless telecommunications service providers in the state; and (4) distributing amounts on a monthly basis due to qualifying telecommunications public utilities, wireless telecommunications service providers and telecommunications carriers receiving KUSF funding.
- (c) Any information made available or received by the administrator from carriers, utilities or providers receiving funds from

 or providing funds to the KUSF shall not be subject to any provisions of the Kansas open records act and shall be considered confidential and proprietary.

- (d) The administrator shall be authorized to maintain an action to collect any funds owed by any telecommunications carrier, public utility or wireless telecommunications provider in the district court in the county of the registered office of such carrier, utility or provider or, if such carrier, utility or provider does not have a registered office in the state, such an action may be maintained in the county where such carrier's, utility's or provider's principal office is located. If such carrier, utility or provider has no principal office in the state, such an action may be maintained in the district court of any county in which such carrier, utility or provider provides service.
- (e) (1) The KUSF administrator shall be responsible to ensure that funds do not fall below the level necessary to pay all amounts collectively owed to all qualifying telecommunications public utilities, wireless telecommunications service providers—and, telecommunications carriers and the information access services contracted for pursuant to section 17, and amendments thereto. The administrator shall have the authority to retain and invest in a prudent and reasonable manner any excess funds collected in any period to help ensure that adequate funds are available to cover amounts payable in other periods.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of appropriations acts, for fiscal year 2013, the KUSF administrator may transfer moneys from the KUSF to the state treasurer. Upon the receipt of any payment, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury and credit it to the KAN-ED fund. Any such payments shall be made after all payments required by K.S.A. 66-2008, and amendments thereto, for the month are made from the KUSF.
- (2) Upon receipt of the certification from the state librarian issued pursuant to section 17, and amendments thereto, the KUSF administrator shall transfer the total amount of moneys certified by the state librarian from the KUSF to the state treasurer in the following calendar year by 12 equal monthly installment payments. Upon receipt of each such payment, the state treasurer shall deposit such amount in the state treasury and credit such amount to the blind information access fund.}
- Sec. 9. 17. {19.} K.S.A. 75-2554 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-2554. As used in this act, unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
  - (a) "Local public libraries" mean:
- (1) Kansas libraries operating under the provisions of K.S.A. 12-1215 to *through* 12-1248, inclusive, and amendments thereto;
  - (2) libraries operating under the provisions of K.S.A. 1997 Supp. 12-

- 1260-to through 12-1270, inclusive, and amendments thereto;
- (3) libraries operating under the provisions of sections 1 through 8, and amendments thereto;
- (4) libraries operating under the provisions of sections 9 through 16, and amendments thereto;
- **(5)** libraries operating under the provisions of K.S.A. <u>1997 Supp.</u> 12-1276, and amendments thereto;
- (4) (5)(6) libraries operating under the provisions of K.S.A. 72-1623, and amendments thereto; or
- (5) (6)(7) municipalities contracting with any library for the furnishing of library services to such municipality pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1230 or 12-1269, and amendments thereto;
  - (b) "regional libraries" mean the regional systems of libraries heretofore organized and operating under authority of K.S.A. 75-2547-to through 75-2552, inclusive, and amendments thereto;
- (c) "state library" means the Kansas state library created and operating under authority of K.S.A. 75-2534, and amendments thereto; and
- (d) "state librarian" means the state librarian appointed pursuant to K.S.A. 75-2535, and amendments thereto.
- 20 Sec. <u>10. <u>18.</u> {20.} K.S.A. {66-2010 and }75-2554<u>is</u> {are} hereby repealed.</u>
- Sec. 11. 19. {21.} This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.