Public Law 100-382
100th Congress

Joint Resolution

Aug. 8, 1988
[H.J. Res. 90]

To authorize and request the President to call and conduct a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not earlier than September 1, 1989, and not later than September 30, 1991, and for other purposes.

20 USC 1501 note.

Whereas access to information and ideas is indispensable to the development of human potential, the advancement of civilization, and the continuance of enlightened self-government;

Whereas the preservation and the dissemination of information and ideas are the primary purpose and function of the library and information services;

Whereas the economic vitality of the United States in a global economy and the productivity of the work force of the Nation rest on access to information in the postindustrial information age;

Whereas the White House Conference on Library and Information Services of 1979 began a process in which a broadly representative group of citizens made recommendations that have improved the library and information services of the Nation, and sparked the Nation's interest in the crucial role of library and information services at home and abroad;

Whereas library and information service is essential to a learning society;

Whereas social, demographic, and economic shifts of the past decade have intensified the rate of change and require that Americans of all age groups develop and sustain literacy and other lifelong learning habits;

Whereas expanding technological developments offer unprecedented opportunities for application to teaching and learning and to new means to provide access to library and information services;

Whereas the growth and augmentation of the Nation's library and information services are essential if all Americans, without regard to race, ethnic background, or geographic location are to have reasonable access to adequate information and lifelong learning;

Whereas the future of our society depends on developing the learning potential inherent in all children and youth, especially literary, reading, research, and retrieval skills;

Whereas rapidly developing technology offers a potential for enabling libraries and information services to serve the public more fully; and

Whereas emerging satellite communication networks and other technologies offer unparalleled opportunity for access to education opportunities to all parts of the world, and to individuals who are homebound, handicapped, or incarcerated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

20 USC 1501 note.

SECTION 1. PRESIDENT TO CALL CONFERENCE IN 1989.

The President is authorized to call and conduct a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not

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earlier than September 1, 1989, and not later than September 30, 1991.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFERENCE.

20 USC 1501 note.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services shall be to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the library and information services of the Nation and their use by the public, in accordance with the findings set forth in the preamble to this joint resolution.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Conference shall be composed of—

(1) representatives of professional library and information personnel and individuals who support or furnish volunteer services to libraries and information services centers, from all age groups and walks of life, and members of the general public;

(2) representatives of local, statewide, regional, and national institutions, agencies, organizations, and associations which provide library and information services to the public;

(3) representatives of educational institutions, agencies, organizations, and associations (including professional and scholarly associations for the advancement of education and research);

(4) individuals with special knowledge of, and special competence in, technology as it may be used for the improvement of library and information services; and

(5) representatives of Federal, State, and local governments.

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS.—In carrying out subsection (a)—

(1) one-fourth of the participants shall be selected from the library and information profession,

(2) one-fourth of the participants shall be selected from among individuals who are currently active library and information supporters, including trustees and friends groups,

(3) one-fourth shall be selected from among individuals who are Federal, State, or local government officials, and

(4) one-fourth shall be selected from the general public.

(d) STATE PARTICIPATION OPTIONAL.—(1) State and territorial delegates and alternates to the national conference may participate in a respective State or territorial conference.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require any State to participate in a State or territorial conference.

SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

20 USC 1501 note.

(a) DIRECTION BY COMMISSION.—The Conference shall be planned and conducted under the direction of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

(b) COMMISSION FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out this joint resolution, the Commission shall—

(1) when appropriate, request the cooperation and assistance of other Federal departments and agencies in order to carry out its responsibilities;

(2) make technical and financial assistance (by grant, contract, or otherwise) available to the States to enable them to organize and conduct conferences and other meetings in order to prepare for the Conference;

Grants. Contracts. State and local governments.

(3) prepare and make available background materials for the use of delegates to the Conference and associated State conferences, and prepare and distribute such reports of the Con-

ference and associated State conferences as may be appropriate; and

(4) conduct fiscal oversight activities with respect to the preparation for and the convening of the Conference including contracting for the services of an audit firm.

(c) FEDERAL AGENCY COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.—(1) Each Federal department and agency, including the national libraries, shall cooperate with, and provide assistance to the Commission upon its request under clause (1) of subsection (b). For that purpose, each Federal department and agency is authorized and encouraged to provide personnel to the Commission.

(2) The Librarian of Congress, the Director of the National Library of Medicine, and the Director of the National Agricultural Library are authorized to detail personnel to the Commission, upon request, to enable the Commission to carry out its functions under this joint resolution.

(d) PERSONNEL.—In carrying out the provisions of this joint resolution, the Commission is authorized to engage such personnel as may be necessary to assist the Commission and the Advisory Committee, without regard for the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to chapter 51, and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(e) EXPENSES.—Members of the Conference may, while away from their homes or regular places of business and attending the Conference, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as may be allowed under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons serving without pay. Such expenses may be paid by way of advances, reimbursement, or in installments as the Commission may determine.

20 USC 1501 note.

SEC. 4. REPORTS.

(a) SUBMISSION TO PRESIDENT; TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—A final report of the Conference, containing such findings and recommendations as may be made by the Conference, shall be submitted to the President not later than 120 days following the close of the Conference. The final report shall be made public and, within 90 days after its receipt by the President, transmitted to the Congress together with a statement of the President containing the recommendations of the President with respect to such report.

Public information.

(b) PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION.—The Commission is authorized to publish and distribute for the Conference the reports authorized under this joint resolution. Copies of all such reports shall be provided to the depository libraries.

20 USC 1501 note.

SEC. 5. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) COMPOSITION.—There is established an advisory committee of the Conference composed of—

(1) eight individuals designated by the Chairman of the Commission;

(2) five individuals designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives with not more than three being Members of the House of Representatives;

(3) five individuals designated by the President pro tempore of the Senate with not more than three being Members of the Senate;

(4) ten individuals appointed by the President;

(5) the Secretary of Education; and
(6) the Librarian of Congress.

The President, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chairman of the Commission shall, after consultation, assure that members of the Advisory Committee are broadly representative of all areas of the United States.

(b) FUNCTION.—The advisory committee shall assist and advise the Commission in planning and conducting the Conference.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—(1) The Chairman of the Commission shall serve as Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall elect the Chair of the Advisory Committee from among its members, who are not full-time Federal employees. The Advisory Committee shall select the Chair of the Conference.

(2) The Chairman of the Advisory Committee is authorized to establish, prescribe functions for, and appoint members to, such advisory and technical committees and staff as may be necessary to assist and advise the Conference in carrying out its functions.

(d) COMPENSATION.—Members of any committee established under this section who are not regular full-time officers or employees of the United States shall, while attending to the business of the Conference, be entitled to receive compensation therefor at a rate fixed by the President but not exceeding the rate of pay specified at the time of such service for grade GS-18 in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, including traveltime. Such members, may, while away from their homes or regular places of business, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as may be authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons in the Government service employed intermittently.

SEC 6. GIFTS AND TITLE TO CERTAIN PROPERTY.

20 USC 1501 note.
Grants.

(a) GIFTS.—The Commission shall have authority to accept, on behalf of the Conference, in the name of the United States, grants, gifts, or bequests of money for immediate disbursement by the Commission in furtherance of the Conference. Such grants, gifts, or bequests offered the Commission, shall be paid by the donor or his representative into the Treasury of the United States, whose receipts shall enter such grants, gifts, and bequests in a special account to the credit of the Commission for the purposes of this joint resolution.

(b) REVERSION OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL.—Materials and equipment acquired by the White House Conference shall revert to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science after the close of the White House Conference.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

20 USC 1501 note.

For the purpose of this joint resolution—

(1) the term "Commission" means the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science;

(2) The term "Conference" means White House Conference on Library and Information Services; and

(3) the term "State" includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the

Virgin Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and American Indian Tribes.

20 USC 1501 note.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated without fiscal year limitations $6,000,000 to carry out this joint resolution. Such sums shall remain available for obligation until expended.

Approved August 8, 1988.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 90 (S.J. Res. 26):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-121 (Comm. on Education and Labor) and No. 100-765 (Comm. of Conference).
SENATE REPORTS: No. 100-156 accompanying S.J. Res. 26 (Comm. on Labor and Human Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:
Vol. 133 (1987): June 8, considered and passed House.
Dec. 15, S.J. Res. 26 considered in Senate; H.J. Res. 90, amended, passed in lieu.
Vol. 134 (1988): July 13, Senate agreed to conference report.
July 26, House agreed to conference report.