



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 1/22/2018

Agenda Placement: 5A

## Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Napa County Legislative Subcommittee

**FROM:** Molly Rattigan for Minh Tran - County Executive Officer  
County Executive Office

**REPORT BY:** Michael Karath, Staff Assistant - BOS - 299-1477

**SUBJECT:** S. 2271 (Jack Reed-D-RI and Susan Collins-R-ME) - Museum and Library Services Act

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer seeks discussion and possible action on S. 2271 (Jack Reed-D-RI and Susan Collins-R-ME), the Museum and Library Services Act, that seeks to reauthorize the core programs administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that includes the Museum Services Act and the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA), which provides more than \$183 million in funding through the Grants to States program.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A federally funded agency or program typically requires an "authorization", which is legislation passed by Congress providing its justification. The authorization must be periodically reauthorized.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which includes the Museum Services Act and the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA), was last authorized for funding in 2010, and the authorization expired in 2016. Although an authorization is not a requirement for a program to receive federal funding, passage of a reauthorization sends a strong signal of support to the Appropriations Committees. An agency lacking an authorization risks becoming a target for elimination by Congress. With the FY 2018-19 budget looming, it is important for IMLS to be reauthorized.

S. 2271 (Jack Reed-D-RI and Susan Collins-R-ME), the Museum and Library Services Act, seeks to reauthorize these core IMLS programs.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

The federal government has provided direct aid to libraries since 1964, when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). After a number of reauthorizations, Congress passed the first Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) in 1996 in which the LSCA was replaced by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The new act combined the Library Programs Office—part of the Department of Education since 1956—and the Institute of Museum Services to establish IMLS. A second MLSA, signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2003, updated the original legislation and authorized federal funding for LSTA through FY09.

The most recent MLSA, signed by President Barack Obama in December 2010, was also written by Senator Reed, authorizing funding through FY2015-16. In September 2016, Senator Reed introduced S.3391, the MLSA of 2016, with Collins and Cochran as cosponsors, but it did not advance past the Senate HELP Committee.

In the process of refining S. 2271 in 2017, Senator Reed's office solicited feedback from the library and museum communities, including the American Library Association and the American Alliance of Museums. Senator Reed also spoke with other legislators about what could be modified and improved on from the 2016 bill to gain further support.

The legislation includes a number of updates, such as an emphasis on strengthening the use of data-driven assessment tools—particularly to help develop local services to better meet community needs—and providing for technical support and assistance in data collection, as well as enhancing IMLS's abilities to collaborate with other federal agencies.

The bill also amends LSTA to give prominence to libraries' roles as community hubs, highlighting such services as education, lifelong learning, workforce development, economic and business development, digital literacy skills, critical thinking, financial literacy skills, services for community members like caregivers and veterans, and new and emerging technology—making sure to shape language open-ended enough to provide for libraries' technology needs down the line.

There are six co-sponsors. U.S. Senators Feinstein and Harris are not co-sponsors at this time.

The American Library Association supports S. 2271.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . S. 2271 - BILL TEXT - Museum and Library Services Act

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan