

Library Service System Membership Requirement  
Maintenance of Effort (MOE)  
Statutory Relief Proposal prepared by David Weinhold and Sharon Winkle  
(4/7/03)

### **Introduction**

David Weinhold (Director of the Eastern Shores Library System) and Sharon Winkle (Director of Mead Public Library) developed the following proposal in response to concerns about the effect of non-compliance with the MOE requirement for public library system membership.

These concerns arose after we inquired about the DLTCL position regarding MOE compliance issues. It is our understanding that the DLTCL stance on MOE non-compliance is that non-compliance is self-correcting and that the self-correction may occur while the non-complying library continues as a system member. If this is the case, the MOE requirement will not encourage stable or increasing funding for individual public libraries. Instead it will allow decreasing funding.

David and I believe that in light of the above understanding it is important to consider an alternative during this time of serious financial constraints. We propose that the library community support legislative relief from the MOE requirement. Our proposal is designed to support stable or increasing funding for individual public libraries following a hiatus during the 2004 - 2005 biennium.

Note that the DLTCL position is that the MOE requirement is not a state mandate. So the waiver from compliance with state mandates provided in the recent budget bill (66.0143) does not apply.

### **Proposed Legislative Relief**

- Proposed aspects of statutory relief
  - >For 2004/05 Biennium
  - >For funding authorities (e.g. municipalities) above mean WI per capita support
  - >Freeze MOE at 2003 level
  - >Following relief period, funding must resume at or above frozen MOE level in order to retain system membership eligibility
  
- Library community support necessary
  - >DLTCL (Division for Libraries Technology and Community Learning)
  - >SRLAAW (System & Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin)
  - >WLA (Wisconsin Library Association)