

AGENDA ITEM: Young Adult Services

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

In August 1999, the Library of California Board adopted a motion “to pursue a legislative vehicle(s) to implement a statewide Young Adult Services Program based on a program design that was initially adopted by the Board in August 1998.”

In 2000 and 2001, Assemblymember Carl Washington (52nd District), authored two bills regarding after school programs in public libraries for young adults (AB 2486; AB 49). Both bills were sponsored by the Library of California Board, endorsed by the California Library Association, approved by the Department of Education, supported by the State PTA, the library community, and law enforcement officials. Both bills were vetoed by the Governor largely on the basis that sufficient after school programs were being provided to young adults.

Staff from Assemblymember Washington’s office forwarded a letter to the President of the Board indicating continued support for young adult services in public libraries (Exhibit A).

Since the last Board meeting, the following activities have occurred:

AB 2730 IS INTRODUCED, AMENDED AND HEARD BY TWO ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES.

On February 22, 2002, Assemblymember Carl Washington (52nd District), introduced AB 2730. It was identical to the last amended version of AB 49. It would create the Youth Mentoring and Safe Communities Grant Program (Exhibit B). This program would require the State Librarian to award grants on a competitive basis to qualified public libraries, as specified, for the purposes of implementing the program in public libraries. Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) would be appropriated from the General Fund to the State Librarian for the purpose of implementing the program.

AB 2730 was amended by the author on April 22, 2002 (Exhibit C). The content of the bill is similar to the previous version; however there are two significant changes. First, the amount and source of funding has been changed. Second, funding has been increased to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) and would be appropriated from The Carl Washington School Safety and Violence Prevention Program. Eligibility of public libraries to apply for grant funds has been modified --- in addition to meeting other criteria, to be eligible, a public library must work in conjunction with a school currently

using, or that at some future time, may utilize funding from The Carl Washington School Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 1999.

AB 2730 was heard by the Assembly Committee on Local Government on Wednesday, April 17, 2002 and was passed (Ayes 10; Noe's 1). The bill was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2730 was heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, April 8, 2002, and was referred to the suspense file.

RELATED ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE: Updates on activities by Board members and staff.

Relevant Committee: Access Services
Staff Liaison: Bessie Condos Tichauer