

PUBLIC LIBRARY LEGISLATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY-1945

State Aid for Public Libraries was voted by the 1945 General Assembly, as recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission, at \$175,000 for each year of the biennium. If this amount is divided equally among the 100 counties, \$1660 will be allocated each county for the years 1945-1946, 1946-1947. The request for \$225,000 which was originally made would have meant an additional \$500 for each county. During 1944-45, the eighty-two counties will each receive \$1400, for the non-participating counties' share has been reallocated to the participating counties.

State Aid for Public Libraries was the second item on the program of the State Legislative Council. Librarians and people interested in library service are grateful to the members of the Legislative Council for their work in the various counties.

Seven bills, three state-wide and four local, affecting public libraries were presented and all, but one, were passed. Senator Lawrence Wallace introduced two bills to re-write sections of the General Statutes relating to public libraries. SB 53 made provisions for appointing library trustees, terms of office and duties in joint libraries where two or more counties contract for service. SB 54 provides for a new registration in library elections and for an increase or decrease in the library tax voted at a prior election. These two bills were passed.

SB 55 which would have permitted counties to levy a tax for public library purposes without a vote of the people, was reported unfavorably by the House Finance Committee.

Local bills affecting public library

service were passed for Cumberland, Gaston, and Mecklenburg Counties.

The Legislators were better informed about libraries than ever before and their attitude and interest was decidedly encouraging.