

Eudora Library District; SB 59

SB 59 creates the Eudora Community Library District Act, which allows the city of Eudora to continue being a part of a library district previously established by the City of Eudora and the Eudora Township.

The bill defines the following terms:

- “Eudora community library district” (District) to mean all territory located within the boundaries of the city of Eudora and the Eudora township; and
- “Board” to mean the board of the District appointed pursuant to the provisions of this act.

Under the bill, the District is created *via* the adoption of a joint resolution by the governing body of the City of Eudora and the Eudora Township board. The bill requires the joint resolution include the following provisions:

- The District board is appointed as provided in the joint resolution;
- The District board replaces the Eudora Township Library Board; and
- The District maintains the Eudora Township public library at the discretion of the District board.

The bill requires all contracts previously entered into by the Eudora Township Library District be continued by the District and all outstanding bonds, debts, and other obligations of the Eudora Township Library District become the responsibility of the District.

The bill requires the District to be governed by a library district board (board). The board will consist of five directors, who must be qualified electors of the District. The terms of office for the directors are to be established in the joint resolution. The board members appointed by the Eudora Township Library Board will continue to serve in their offices as directors of the board until their respective terms expire and their successors are appointed by the City of Eudora and the Eudora Township, as provided in the joint resolution. Directors will not receive compensation, but they will be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses required for attending meetings and in carrying out their duties.

The bill requires the directors of the board to organize an election of a chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and other such officers as the board may deem necessary by a majority vote. The board is required to establish the date and place for regular meetings. Special meetings could be called by the chairperson or a majority vote of the board. The bill requires written notice of the timing, place, and purpose of any special meeting to be given to each director at least two days prior to the meeting, and no business other than what is stated in the notice could occur. The bill allows the board to adopt bylaws as the board deems appropriate. The bill requires the treasurer of the District to provide a bond, in an amount determined by the board, and to file such bond with the Douglas County Clerk. The Douglas County Treasurer is

required to pay over all funds collected for the maintenance of the library or libraries in the District to the treasurer.

Under the bill, the District has the power to:

- Enter into contracts;
- Sue and be sued;
- Acquire, hold, and convey real and personal property;
- Make and adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the District;
- Lease a site or sites and lease a building or buildings for library purposes;
- Acquire material and equipment deemed necessary by the board for the maintenance and extension of modern library service;
- Employ librarians and such other employees as the board deems necessary;
- Establish and maintain a library and traveling library service within the District or within any other municipality with which service contract arrangements have been made;
- Contract with other libraries or the governing body of a municipality for the furnishing of library services to the residents of the municipality and contract with any school board to furnish library service to any school library or to use the library facilities of the public school to supplement the facilities of the public library;
- Receive, accept, and administer any moneys appropriated or granted to the District by the state or federal government;
- Receive and accept any gift or donation to the District and administer the same; and
- Make annual reports to the State Librarian, on or before January 31 each year, concerning receipts and disbursements from all funds and statistical information related to library materials acquired or on hand, number of library users, library services available, and other information the governing body requires.

The bill requires library facilities to be free to use by District residents, subject to reasonable rules and regulations as the board may adopt. The bill authorizes the Board to bar any individual who willfully violates the rules. The board is allowed to establish a fee for nonresidents to use library facilities. The board could also exchange books with any other library by such terms as the board prescribes.

The bill authorizes the board to issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of paying the cost of constructing, reconstructing, repairing, remodeling, furnishing, and equipping any library building or additions. General obligation bonds are the responsibility of the District and not of the City of Eudora or the Eudora Township. The bill requires the question of issuing general obligation bonds be submitted to qualified electors of the District.

The board is required to prepare and publish an annual budget.

The board is authorized to levy a tax, not to exceed five mills on all tangible property in the District, to fund the District budget. The tax levy will not be considered a tax levy of the City of Eudora or the Eudora Township. The board has the authority to increase the mill levy for the acquisition, maintenance, and support of a free public library by adoption of a resolution. The bill requires this resolution to be published once a week for two weeks in a county newspaper. The bill requires an election to approve the increase of the mill levy if, within 30 days after the last publication of the resolution, a petition signed by at least 5.0 percent of qualified electors in the District is filed in the office of the county election officer requesting an election on the mill levy increase.