



SPONSOR: Rep. Longhurst & Sen. Poore
Sens. Cloutier, Hansen

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO EXPAND THE EXCHANGE NETWORK BETWEEN SCHOOL AND COUNTY LIBRARIES.

1 WHEREAS, reading is a vital life skill that we need to be encouraging in all of our children; and

2 WHEREAS, access to books is one of the most important factors in a child's literary development; and

3 WHEREAS, many students do not have access to books and suitable reading materials at home; and

4 WHEREAS, the Delaware School Libraries master plan states that studies confirm that access to a high-quality
5 school library results in better student performance; and

6 WHEREAS, in Delaware, only 37 percent of fourth-graders and only 31 percent of eighth-graders were found to
7 be proficient in reading; and

8 WHEREAS, the Delaware School Libraries master plan recommends expanding the Delaware Library consortium
9 to include all school libraries; and

10 WHEREAS, allowing children to access books they need from local libraries will cut down on parent
11 transportation time and allow kids access to the books they need even if they are unable to travel to a local library; and

12 WHEREAS, there are 15 public libraries in New Castle County, 5 public libraries in Kent County, 13 public
13 libraries in Sussex County, and 33 total in the State of Delaware; and

14 WHEREAS, the Delaware Library Catalog Consortium already includes 33 public libraries, 6 academic libraries,
15 and 15 special libraries; and

16 WHEREAS, the Delaware Library Catalog Consortium has been piloted in 16 schools across Delaware: Sussex
17 tech, 9 schools in Colonial School district, 4 charter schools including one in each county, and 2 private schools.

18 NOW, THEREFORE:

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 150th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
20 Senate concurring therein, that the Secretary of State expand the currently existing Delaware Library Catalog Consortium to
21 include all Delaware public schools and public county libraries.

SYNOPSIS

This House Concurrent Resolution outlines the need for expansion of the exchange network between school and county libraries and requests that the Secretary of State develop and implement such expansion.

