

**TITLE 405. OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES
CHAPTER 25. STATE AID GRANTS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

Rule Impact Statement

1. Brief description of the purpose of the proposed rule

The Department is proposing an amendment to OAC 405:25-1-3 to allow the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Board to modify application of specific requirements for public libraries to receive State Aid Grants due to emergency or extraordinary circumstances.

2. Description of the classes of persons who most likely will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule, and any information on cost impacts received by the agency from any private or public entities

The staff working in local public libraries, local governments who provide public library service and customers of public libraries are the anticipated classes of persons who may be affected by these proposed rule changes.

3. Description of the classes of persons who will benefit from the proposed rule

All of the classes affected by the proposed rule will benefit from the rule change. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries Board having the ability to modify application of certain requirements means that libraries that are ineligible for State Aid due to emergency or extraordinary circumstances outside their control will be qualified to receive state aid as long as all other requirements are met. More city governments will receive funding benefiting the public library budget and customers of public libraries.

4. Description of the probable economic impact of the proposed rule upon affected classes of persons or political subdivisions, including a listing of all fee changes and, whenever possible, a separate justification for each fee change

If the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Board is allowed to modify application of certain requirements, the local governments that would otherwise be ineligible for state aid due to the extended emergency declared by the Governor would receive funding.

5. Probable costs and benefits to the agency and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, the source of revenue to be used for implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, and any anticipated effect on state revenues, including a projected net loss or gain in such revenues if it can be projected by the agency

The anticipated costs to the agency would be minimal if approved. Without the proposed rule change, the probable costs to the agency include the loss of federal dollars due to loss of match and failure to meet maintenance of effort requirements. It is likely that none of the state's public libraries will be eligible for state aid in FY2022 under the current rules due to the catastrophic health emergency. By not meeting the current requirements, local governments would likely experience a loss of up to \$1.5 million in funding for public library services in FY2022. All libraries reduced their hours of operation due to shelter in place orders which impact the requirement to maintain an annual minimum

hours of operation. Municipal libraries experienced budget cuts due to lost sales tax which will impact their ability to meet the annual “maintenance of effort” requirement.

6. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule

The proposed rule will have a positive economic impact on political subdivisions with public libraries. There are 109 municipalities with public libraries. Eight library systems serve 29 counties. It would require no additional cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule.

7. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule may have an economic effect on small business as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act

No adverse economic effect on small business is expected if proposed rule changes are implemented.

8. Explanation of the measures the agency has taken to minimize compliance costs and a determination of whether there are less costly or nonregulatory methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule

There are no expected compliance costs to implement the proposed rule changes. There were no less costly, nonregulatory, or less intrusive ways to achieve the purpose of the proposed rule.

9. Determination of the effect of the proposed rule on the public health, safety and environment and, if the proposed rule is designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety and environment, an explanation of the nature of the risk and to what extent the proposed rule will reduce the risk

There is no anticipated effect on the public health, safety and environment. The proposed rule changes are not designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety and environment.

10. Determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety and environment if the proposed rule is not implemented

There is no anticipated effect on the public health, safety and environment. The proposed rule changes are not designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety and environment.

11. The rule impact statement was prepared on February 11, 2021.