

Library Funding Boosted

Local libraries will get a whopping increase in state appropriations this year, equivalent to six times the amount they received last year.

The Dept. of Education's appropriations bill contains a provision giving libraries 30 cents per capita this year compared to five cents last year.

The provision was overwhelmingly supported by Sens. William Faust (D-Westland), Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) and David Plawicki (D-Deborn Heights) as well as Reps. John Markes (D-Westland), John Bennett (D-Redford Township), Raymond Baker (R-Farmington), Thomas Brown (D-Westland), William Keith (D-Garden City), R. Robert Geake (R-Northville), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park).

"The increased appropriations was influenced by a bill sponsored by Markes to give libraries a larger income and guarantee that it will be continued at a higher level.

"The existence of my bill got more money for libraries this year," Markes said.

The increased appropriation was included in the Dept. of Education bill, and Markes was assured by Senate leaders that his bill will be reported out of the appropriations committee in the fall, he said. Markes' bill will guarantee that the increase in library support will be continuous.

"The whole goal in increasing money to libraries is to open the doors to libraries and let people make use of improved services," Markes said.

"It covers libraries all over the state," he added. "Some of them are in dire need."

Libraries will receive \$2.2 million more from the state than last year, under the provision for a total allocation of \$1.3 million.

The bill also provides that library systems will get an increase of five cents per capita over what they received last year, Markes' bill. It would mean that most will receive 25 cents per capita.

23 Complete SC Programs In Summer

Twenty-three local students have completed one-year programs in practical nursing and occupational therapy at Schoolcraft College during the summer.

Students trained to become occupational therapy assistants include Roberta Bergman, Sandra Corey, Christine Edt, Carol Elsey, Charlene Garde and Charlene Jones of Livonia and Virginia Burgie and Carol Edison of Plymouth.

They will assist registered occupational therapists in general hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers and home-bound programs.

Practical nursing graduates include Lynn Green, Sharon Schmitt, Eli Vilk and Cynthia Weaver of Garden City, Deborah Bailey, Lisa Coleman, Ruth Cooley, Carol Foster, Mary Fron, July Johnson, Marguerite Paquette, Barbara Stobe, Wanda Vancil and Joan Watts of Livonia completed the program along with Darlene Onyskow of Westland.

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