**Health Science Librarians of Illinois Legislative Committee Report**

**Submitted by Eric Edwards and Michael Wold, Committee Co-Chairs**

**November 6, 2014 (for HSLI Board meeting on November 12, 2014)**

1. Committee Members: Michael Wold (OSF St. Mary Medical Center) and Eric Edwards

(Benedictine University at Springfield)

1. Current Projects: With the current legislative session coming to an end, the Committee has identified the following pieces of legislation from the current Illinois General Assembly session as being particularly relevant to libraries. (Unless noted otherwise, the legislation has become law.)

* House Bill 3793—The legislation contains funding for a number of capital projects for libraries at the local level.
* House Bill 3796—This bill, which was vetoed by the Governor, would amend the Freedom of Information Act by defining what counts as a “voluminous” request and requiring that public bodies respond to such requests, with certain exceptions. An override of the veto is possible.
* House Bill 6095-- Among the bill’s provisions is keeping library grant appropriations at the levels that have been requested by Secretary of State Jesse White.
* Senate Bill 1941-- This bill improves access to legal materials produced by state agencies by creating a standardized format.
* Senate Bill 2784-- This legislation, which has not made it out of committee, would create the “Internet Screening in Public Libraries Act”, in order to prevent library patrons from viewing anything that could be considered obscene material or child pornography.

1. Other Current Projects: The Committee has identified the following issues as being particularly important in the upcoming session of the Illinois General Assembly, and will monitor legislation accordingly.

* Funding—keeping it at current levels, especially for pensions, and seeking increases in funding or alternative sources, if possible
* Intellectual Freedom and Privacy—opposing legislation, especially for Internet filters, that would restrict library users’ privacy
* Access to Library Services—ensuring that libraries exist to serve their communities and improving Internet connectivity among libraries
* Increasing Overall Effectiveness—maintaining the highest possible level of service for users by ensuring that libraries receive the same resources as agencies and other state entities with similar needs

At the federal level, renewal of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the only federal legislation that is devoted specifically to libraries, will be one of the main issues. Ensuring that Illinois’ LSTA allocation remains the same or is increased will also be critical.

1. Board Action Items: None
2. Attached Items: None

Respectfully submitted by Eric Edwards and Michael Wold, Committee Co-Chairs, on November 6, 2014.