

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.F.1**

MEETING DATE: **May 13, 2022**

SUBJECT: **Government and Legal
Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jay Smith**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PLF Update

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the May 2022 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$57,624,451 — which is \$18 million (+ 45.5%) above ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2021. While May is usually a high distribution month due to April income tax filing, this far exceeds anything we have seen in recent years.

According to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), overall state tax receipts for the month of April came in \$1 billion (+ 45.6%) above estimates. So far, State Fiscal Year 2022 tax collections are exceeding estimates by \$2.5 billion. This means the legislature and the state are continuing to see a large surplus with only 2 months left in the fiscal year.

A look at the PLF distribution for the past three years and a link to an Excel spreadsheet listing each county's distribution total for May 2022 can be found on the [OLC website](#).

HB 327 – Divisive Concepts

House Bill (HB) 327 is legislation currently being discussed in the House State and Local Government Committee that seeks to prohibit schools, universities, political subdivisions, and state agencies from teaching, promoting, and offering instruction or training on certain topics.

Since being introduced, the bill has gone through multiple revisions. The current version impacts Ohio's public libraries because it specifically includes local political subdivisions. This means it would impact townships, municipalities, and counties as well.

The bill states that no state agency or political subdivision shall offer teaching, instruction, or training on certain concepts to any employees, contractors, staff, individuals, or groups or require them to adopt or believe in these concepts.

The bill prohibits state employees from required training on the concepts and prohibits political subdivisions from accepting federal grants or private funding for developing training programs or materials on the specified concepts. More information about this bill will be discussed during the Board Meeting.

OLC Legislative Day Recap

The OLC Legislative Day was held at the Sheraton on Capitol Square on Wed., April 6 with more than 200 attendees. In addition to a Statehouse briefing, both First Lady Fran DeWine and Senate President Pro Tempore Jay Hottinger were honored during the event. Mrs. DeWine was recognized for her efforts to improve early childhood literacy and for expanding the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library across the state. Senator Jay Hottinger was named the recipient of the Andrew Carnegie Award for his unwavering support of Ohio's public libraries. Throughout the day, library administrators and supporters visited with members of the Ohio General Assembly. They discussed the many ways libraries help their communities, especially over the past two years, from distributing

5.F.1: Government and Legal Services Report

Covid testing kits to loaning Wi-Fi hotspots. Right in the middle of National Library Week, this event was a great way to show how Ohio's public libraries connect their communities through the services, programs, and expertise they offer.

Next years legislative day is already being planned for Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in the Statehouse Atrium and Rotunda.

Legislators Participate in Trustee Dinner Events

OLC invited several legislators to participate in the regional Trustee Dinners. This format allows members of the legislature who are supportive of Ohio's public libraries to speak candidly about issues being discussed in the legislature. House Majority Whip Don Jones participated in the Southeast Ohio Dinner, Rep. Haraz Ghanbari and Chancellor Randy Gardner participated in the Northwest Ohio Dinner, Rep. Gayle Manning participated in the Northeast Ohio Dinner, and House Minority Whip Jessica Miranda is expected to participate in the Southwest Ohio Dinner scheduled on May 19.