

135.9 **ARTICLE 7**
135.10 **LIBRARIES**

53.3 **ARTICLE 6**
53.4 **LIBRARIES**

135.11 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 134.355, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

135.12 Subd. 8. **Eligibility.** A regional public library system may apply for regional library
135.13 telecommunications aid. The aid must be used for data and video access maintenance,
135.14 equipment, or installation of telecommunication lines. To be eligible, a regional public
135.15 library system must be officially designated by the commissioner of education as a
135.16 regional public library system as defined in section 134.34, subdivision 3, and each of its
135.17 participating cities and counties must meet local support levels defined in section 134.34,
135.18 subdivision 1. A public library building that receives aid under this section must be open a
135.19 minimum of 20 hours per week. Exceptions to the minimum open hours requirement may
135.20 be granted by the Department of Education on request of the regional public library system
135.21 for the following circumstances: short-term closing for emergency maintenance and
135.22 repairs following a natural disaster; in response to exceptional economic circumstances;
135.23 building repair or maintenance that requires public services areas to be closed; or to adjust
135.24 hours of public service to respond to documented seasonal use patterns.

135.25 Sec. 2. **CONSULTATION; LIBRARIES AND SERVICE DELIVERY.**

135.26 The commissioner of education must consult with people knowledgeable about
135.27 state libraries and service delivery, including representatives of the Department of
135.28 Education, regional public library systems, multicounty multitype library systems, public
135.29 libraries located in the metropolitan area and greater Minnesota other than regional public
135.30 library systems, Minitex, public school library media specialists, the Office of Higher
135.31 Education, the Association of Minnesota Counties, and the League of Minnesota Cities
135.32 on increasing service delivery and collaboration between library governance systems,
135.33 options for changing current library procedures and library governance systems to
135.34 increase collaboration between library systems, and ensuring equitable and cost-effective
136.1 access to library services statewide. In addition to addressing physical library services,
136.2 the commissioner also must consider how to increase access to emerging electronic
136.3 services. The commissioner must report by February 1, 2015, to the education policy
136.4 and finance committees of the legislature on how to structure library systems to ensure
136.5 that all Minnesota residents have equitable and cost-effective access to state-supported
136.6 library services.

136.7 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

53.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 134.355, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

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