

Act relating to public libraries (The Public Libraries Act)

Date: LOV-1985-12-20-108

Ministry: Ministry of Culture

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Amends

Announced

Short title: The Public Libraries Act

Overview of chapters

Chapter I. The objective and activities of public libraries (sections 1-3)

Chapter II. Municipal public libraries (section 4-5)

Chapter III. The county council's library duties (sections 6-7)

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Chapter V. The Act's entry into force. Amendments to other Acts (section 10)

The title of the Act was amended by the Act of 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747). Cf the Act of 29 May 1987 no. 23 – cf. the previous Acts of 16 May 1935 no. 1, 12 December 1947 no. 12 and 18 June 1971 no. 80.

Chapter I. The objective and activities of public libraries

Section 1 Purpose

The task of public libraries is to promote the spread of information, education and other cultural activities through active dissemination and by making books and other media available for the free use of all the inhabitants of Norway.

Public libraries are to be an independent meeting place and arena for public discussions and debates.

The individual library shall place emphasis on quality, versatility and topical relevance in its services for children and adults.

The library's contents and services are to be made known.

The public libraries are part of a national library system.

0 Amended by the Act of 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747).

Section 2. The scope of the Act

The Act applies to the public library activities, including the local public libraries for which the municipalities are responsible (chapter II of the Act), the county councils' library duties (chapter III of the Act), and the special library objectives for which the central government is responsible (chapter IV of the Act).

The public library activities include library services for all those who have special difficulty in using libraries.

0 Amended by the Act of 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747).

Section 3. Lending cooperation, registration, etc

The libraries shall comply with common rules for lending cooperation and registration and for the submission of statistics. The Ministry may issue more detailed regulations.

0 Amended by the Act of 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747).

Chapter II. Municipal public libraries

Section 4. General provisions

All municipalities shall have a public library for the purposes mentioned in chapter I.

The public library may be run by the municipality alone or fully or partly together with another municipality, county council or government institution.

The municipality determines the rules governing the public library.

0 Amended by the Acts of 11 June 1993 no. 85, 4 July 2003 no. 82 (entered into force on 1 August 2003 pursuant to the Resolution of 4 July 2003 no. 898), 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747).

Section 5. Staff

All municipalities shall have a professionally qualified chief librarian.

The Ministry may grant an exemption from this provision in special cases and issue more detailed regulations governing qualification requirements.

0 Amended by the Act of 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747).

Chapter III. The county council's library duties

0 Title amended by the Act of 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747).

Section 6. General provisions

The county council shall take care of regional library tasks and regional library developments, including providing advice to local authorities, providing library-related guidance and assistance and arranging meetings and courses on library issues.

The county council may establish agreements concerning common library operations and lending cooperation with one or more municipalities.

0 Amended by the Act of 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747), new section numbers as from section 9.

Section 7. Staff

The county council shall have the management-level library expertise to carry out county council library tasks. The Ministry issues more detailed regulations governing qualification requirements.

0 Repealed by the Act of 11 June 1993 no. 85, added by the Act of 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747).

Chapter IV. Central government duties.

Section 8. Central government library tasks

The Ministry or a party determined by the Ministry shall take care of the central government library tasks pursuant to this Act.

0 Amended by the Acts of 4 July 2003 no. 82 (entered into force on 1 August 2003 pursuant to the Resolution of 4 July 2003 no. 898), 6 January 2012 no. 3 and 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747), new section numbers as from section 13.

Section 9. Special library objectives

The central government tasks include library objectives that do not naturally form part of the individual municipality's area of responsibility or which are of special importance to the maintenance of a national library system.

0 Amended by the Act of 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747), new section numbers as from section 14.

Chapter V. The entry into force of the Act. Amendments to other Acts.

Section 10. This Act enters into force on the date determined by the King. As from the same date, the following Acts shall be amended as follows:----

0 Amended by the Act of 21 June 2013 no. 95 (entered into force on 1 January 2014 pursuant to the Resolution of 21 June 2013 no. 747), new section numbers as from section 16.

1 As from 1 January 1986 pursuant to the Resolution of 20 December 1985 no. 2236.