

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

February 26, 2009

TO: Honorable Mark Strama, Chair, House Committee on Technology, Economic Development & Workforce

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB185 by Alonzo (Relating to providing Internet access in certain local public libraries.), **As Introduced**

<p>No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</p>
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The bill would amend the Government Code to require that accreditation standards for public libraries adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission include that a public library with a service area of over 50,000 residents shall provide computers with high-speed Internet access for public use. Accreditation standards adopted by the Commission determine eligibility for membership in a major resource system or regional library system.

Local Government Impact

According to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, of the 78 public libraries expected to have a service population exceeding 50,000 over the next five years, approximately 5 percent (4 libraries) do not currently have a high-speed Internet connection. The agency reports that the reasons a public library does not have a high-speed Internet connection vary by locality; the cost of upgrading to a high-speed connection, and sustaining the monthly fees, would therefore vary by location.

The monthly charges for a high-speed connection vary by circumstance and location, but may range from approximately \$400 - \$2,000/month, per location. In addition, if applicable, there may be installation charges to bring a high-speed connection to a library building; these amounts cannot be approximated, but could be sizable.

Source Agencies: 306 Library & Archives Commission

LBB Staff: JOB, JRO, MS, LCO, DB