

State of Illinois
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Springfield, Illinois 62706

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

July 26, 2001

To the Honorable Members of
The Illinois Senate
92nd General Assembly

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto Senate Bill 635 entitled, "AN ACT regarding libraries."

Senate Bill 635 creates a Task Force to hold hearings to study 1) the means by which public libraries and elementary and secondary school libraries can enhance the coordination of students accessing information in public libraries; 2) the means by which public libraries and elementary and secondary school libraries can access new library information technology and enhance the capability of funding for technology from federal, state, local, and other resources; and 3) the issues involved in and the effectiveness, cost, and means of implementing a statewide public library service.

Although all of these goals are admirable, the current Illinois State Library Advisory Committee already has oversight of all of these issues and it would be redundant to establish yet another task force to review the same issues. The regional library systems have the statutory responsibility to address issues of coordination and access. The Secretary of State and the Illinois State Library are also addressing these issues as a result of a summit held last fall. Furthermore, there have been several attempts over the past several years to study these areas. These issues must be addressed within the context of other ongoing statewide initiatives that coordinate efforts, increase funding from outside sources and utilize technology to enhance accessibility. Lastly, creation of this Task Force runs counter to this administration's effort to eliminate redundant boards and commissions.

For these reasons, I hereby veto and return Senate Bill 635.

Sincerely,
George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR