

92GMSSB2135

State of Illinois
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Springfield, Illinois 62706

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

July 8, 2002

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

I hereby sign Senate Bill 2135, which amends the State Library Act to provide that certain records held by a State agency shall (instead of shall when feasible) be provided to the State Library in electronic format. This legislation also provides that the State Librarian shall set by rule the standard to be used for electronic data exchange among State agencies and the State Library. Lastly, this legislation changes reference from "printed material" to "published material."

Although this legislation supports the State Library in meeting its responsibility to provide public access to government documents, the wording in the bill regarding the authority of the State Librarian to "set by rule the standard for electronic data exchange" could lead to conflicts with existing law. The language in Senate Bill 2135 could be construed to provide the State Library with the singular authority to set document standards.

The authority to describe the standards that agencies use in making electronic submissions currently rests in statute with the Department of Central Management Services in Article 405 of the Department of Central Management Services Law (20 ILCS 405/Art.405). The standardization of documents is important for the long-term accessibility of information. Therefore, it is essential that both the Department of Central Management Service and the State Library - in counsel with the Illinois Technology Office - continue to work in partnership with state agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of electronic document exchanges.

The State Library plans to hold hearings on proposed rules to implement SB 2135, and this is an important means for providing an opportunity for input. While I support the State Librarian's goal of assuring receipt and subsequent access to all information published by state government in all formats, legislation may be needed to further clarify this issue.

With this clarification, I have signed Senate Bill 2135.

Sincerely,
George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR