Study: HB 633

Short Title: Creating a digital library services state special revenue account

Preliminary Analysis

Issues as Listed in Legislation:
Adequate and fair distribution of costs for administering and operating the natural resource information system and other digital library services among state agencies and private or commercial entities. The purpose of the digital library services account is to support digital library services throughout Montana.

Preliminary study approach:
1. Review and summarize MSL financial data between FY 2012 and FY 2021 by fund type, function, and expenditure
2. Develop costs for MSL services by function including overhead for administration for FY 2012 and FY 2021. Include allocation of FTE to each function
3. Review and summarize Montana legislative efforts for funding the natural resource information system and other digital library services
4. Review and summarize statutes, state and federal, related to MSL funding. Determine if use of federal funds or lawsuits in other states limits MSL ability to charge for services. Examine the local government data contribution and the potential impacts of charging for use of the database
5. Discuss challenges of current funding methodology with MSL
6. Obtain statistics on usage of digital services by state agencies, federal agencies, and private entities
7. Review and summarize funding methodology used in other states for comparable state library services
8. Develop methodology for establishing charge for service for digital library services including allocation of overhead

Data
1. Budget and expenditures by library services function between FY 2012 and FY 2021
2. Statistics of digital library services by user between FY 2018 and FY 2019
3. Other states formula methodology for funding digital library services

Deliverables
1. Briefing paper detailing funding options for digital library services
2. Legislation, if recommended by the committee, to provide funding alternatives for digital library services
3. Develop methodology for collecting and evaluating use of digital library services

Role for LSD or LAD staff – At the first meeting update subcommittee on work done in previous interim on funding Natural Heritage Program

Role for Executive – MSL and OBPP staff provide assist in data gathering, panel discussion, and review of briefing papers