



BUILD AMERICA'S LIBRARIES ACT

S. 127 would provide \$5 billion to repair, modernize, and construct library facilities in underserved and marginalized communities.

Introduced on January 28, 2021, by **Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and cosponsors**, the legislation would fund upgrades to the nation's library infrastructure to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, broadband capacity, environmental hazards, and accessibility barriers.

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

Funding would be distributed through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to state library agencies. State libraries would then award grants on a competitive basis to libraries in each state. Funding would be prioritized to libraries serving marginalized communities, such as high-poverty areas. Additionally, IMLS would provide funding directly to tribal libraries. Eligible facilities under the Build America's Libraries Act include public libraries, tribal libraries, and state libraries that provide service directly to the general public.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible uses of the funding include:

- conducting facilities condition assessments, needs assessments, and master planning;
- financing new library facilities; or
- making capital improvements to existing library facilities, including buildings, grounds, and bookmobiles.

Improvements to library facilities could include enhancements to:

- protect health and safety, such as preventing the spread of COVID-19;
- upgrade broadband equipment and technology hardware;
- improve accessibility for people with disabilities;
- abate hazards such as mold and lead; and
- increase environmental sustainability, such as energy efficiency.

ORIGINAL SENATE COSPONSORS

- Jack Reed (D-RI)
- Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
- Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
- Ron Wyden (D-OR)

For more information, visit:
ala.org/advocacy/buildlibraries