



Illinois Heartland Library System

MEMO TO: IHLS Board of Directors
FROM: Leslie Bednar
DATE: February 18, 2022
RE: RAILS Online Database Proposal

Background

The Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) developed a legislative proposal for statewide database access. The [proposal](#) was introduced at their March 26, 2021 board meeting.

The proposal would apply to all Illinois residents regardless of access to library services and included a \$5M estimated annual cost in addition to library system funding. It was filed in May 2021 as [HB 4092](#). The database proposal is currently assigned to committee, and RAILS is working with Senator Laura Murphy.

Illinois Library Association Public Policy Committee

The Illinois Library Association's Public Policy Committee (PPC) did consider this proposal as a possible legislative priority for the organization last fall. The proposal was not chosen as a priority for ILA. As you may recall, ILA selected [two priorities](#) for the legislative year: Broadband, and e-Book Pricing.

Current Activity

RAILS board and members remain committed to the proposal and are considering what the next steps are.

Thank you for your interest in this RAILS initiative. You may wish to sign up for the RAILS [news alerts](#) for more information.

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