

FDLP Virtual Meeting on Regional Issues

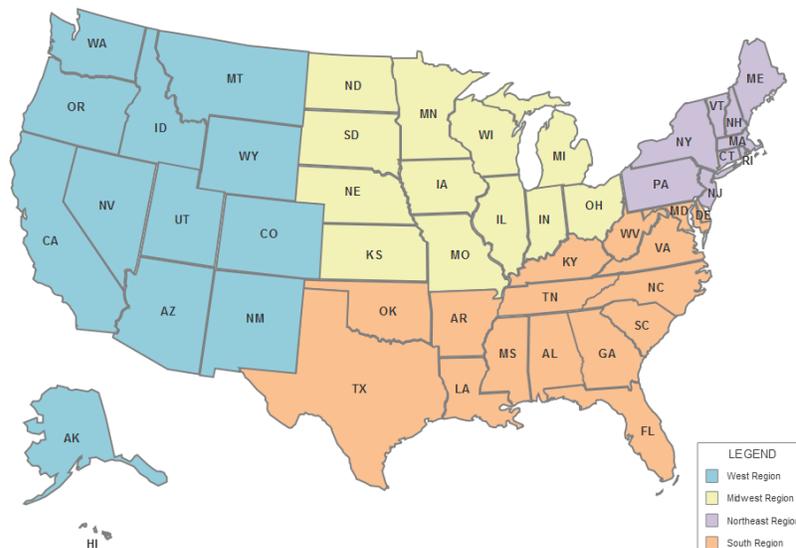
(February 8, 2018)

After the FDLP Virtual Meeting on Regional Issues, two questions still required answers from GPO staff. Those questions and answers appear below.

Q. The section in the draft bill that relates to the number of regionals is confusing. Please clarify.

- A. The draft bill allows for no more than 2 regionals per state. This is similar to what the current law stipulates, with 2 regionals per state and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Additionally, the draft bill allows flexibility in the number of regionals by indicating that, if practicable, there may be at least 2 regionals per Census Region, for a total of 8. Below is a map of the U.S. Census Regions.

Since the draft bill defines state as "except where otherwise provided, each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," the maximum number of regionals would be 62.



In the transition portion of the draft bill it stipulates that libraries that are currently regionals will continue to be regionals, if they so choose; and likewise libraries that are currently selectives will continue to be selectives. Under Chapter 5 of the draft bill, selectives may also request designation as a regional. It allows the Superintendent of Documents to establish criteria for various models.

Q. How would regionals across state lines differ from what we have now?

- A. It is true that we currently have regionals in one state that serve selectives in another state, crossing state boundaries. In these instances, however, the regional collection is housed in only one state – in the designated regional's. What we don't currently have, and the draft bill allows, are designated regionals in multiple states that share collections and services across their state boundaries.

Ten years ago the Government Publishing Office (GPO) sought approval from the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) to allow the regional depositories in Kansas and Nebraska to share collections. The request was not approved. The draft bill allows for this type of shared regional model.