



OFFICES OF THE  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI**  
JEFFERSON CITY

JOHN C. DANFORTH  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 16, 1975

OPINION LETTER NO. 194

Dr. Jack L. Cross  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
Department of Higher Education  
600 Clark Avenue  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Dr. Cross:

This letter is in response to your question asking:

"In light of RSMo. (Supp '73), Section 181.065, may the Coordinating Board for Higher Education authorize the State Library to assume the duties toward Missouri's blind and physically handicapped presently conducted by the St. Louis Public Library, and may the Board seek funds to operate the amended program in futuro rather than by reimbursement as is presently being done."

Section 181.065, RSMo Supp. 1973, as amended in 1974, authorizes the General Assembly to appropriate monies to reimburse any public library in this state for its actual cost of furnishing library service to blind and physically handicapped citizens as defined by federal law if such library is designated by the Library of Congress as a regional library for service to the blind in order to qualify for payments under the federal law.

You have informed this office that the State Library is not now a public library authorized to receive such state or federal funds for such purposes because it has not been so designated by the Library of Congress. We gather from your question however that the issue is not whether the State Library may receive such

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federal funds but whether the State Library may perform the services to the blind and disabled now performed by the St. Louis Public Library under this section.

Section 181.021, RSMo, authorizes the Missouri State Library, among other things, to:

"(8) Purchase library materials and circulate the material by all means necessary, . . ."

It therefore appears that the State Library may furnish library materials to the blind and physically disabled because it has the general power to do so, within the limits of its appropriations.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John C. Danforth".

JOHN C. DANFORTH  
Attorney General