

To: Members of the South Carolina General Assembly
From: Leesa M. Aiken, Acting Agency Director, South Carolina State Library
Date: March 9, 2016
Subject: New Proviso for South Carolina State Library

The State Library opposes a new proviso (Section 27 – Amendment #9) which was introduced by Representative Stavrinakis regarding the State Library’s Content Licensing of electronic resources. The details of the proviso are not technologically possible in all cases and the proviso usurps the decision making responsibly of the Agency. With regards to specific sections of the new proviso:

1 – Simultaneous, unlimited access is being provided and used in schools and homes across South Carolina.

2 – It is not technologically possible in every situation to obtain sought after information in one or two mouse clicks. The electronic resources that the State Library provides are robust and comprised of a variety of categories of information. Geo-authentication is being used with most users, however technological advances prevent geo-authentication in every situation. Currently, geo-authentication is handled via longitude and latitude coordinates of the user or the IP address used to access online resources.

3 – Content is available through the use of personal mobile phones. However, mobile phone capabilities vary by model and provider.

4 – The State Library provides Discus primarily as a K-12 product which is relied on heavily by students, parents and teachers. Additionally, resources are available either through Discus or other online resources provided by the State Library which meet the needs of South Carolinians.

5 – Indexes can be highly informative on their own; patrons have access to full text articles through the Inter-Library Loan borrowing program.

Wikipedia is not a valid, professionally reviewed reference site. Anyone can add content to Wikipedia without proof of authenticity or approval. Newspapers and magazine articles are naturally a part of researching. Most newspapers and magazines require a subscription for full access. Some articles are included with the electronic resource content purchased.

The proviso introduced by Representative Stavrinakis limits the authority of the State Library agency, doesn’t follow authority practices afforded to other state agencies and places undue restrictions on the State Library.