

## General Assembly Proposals to Increase Library Book Budgets

Two representatives from the JMRL area are on General Assembly committees considering budget amendments\* to increase state aid for public libraries: Senator Emmett Hanger and Delegate Steve Landes. The amendments are:

**Senate bill 239 #1s, sponsored by Senator Norment**

**House bill 239 #2h, sponsored by Delegate Scott**

Both bills would begin a 3-year phase in to resume full funding of state aid for Virginia's public libraries.

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The two budget amendments in the Virginia General Assembly would increase state aid for public libraries. State aid provides nearly 100% of JMRL's funding for books, magazines, downloadable books, reference databases, and other library materials. No local tax funds are used to buy library books. In 2001, when state aid was fully funded, JMRL received \$843,000; ten years later, in 2011, JMRL received \$540,000. In 2001 JMRL added 52,000 new books to library collections; in 2011 JMRL added only 31,000 new items.

Comments regarding library budget amendments should be addressed to Senator Hanger and Delegate Landes.

\*Both amendments would restore a 2% reduction in state aid for libraries proposed by the Governor and add \$2.5 million to state aid for libraries.