

New York State Assembly
2011 ANNUAL REPORT

committee on
**LIBRARIES AND
EDUCATION
TECHNOLOGY**

Bob Reilly
Chair



Sheldon Silver
Speaker



ROBERT REILLY
Assemblyman 109TH District
Clifton Park, Colonie, Halfmoon

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ALBANY

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December 15, 2011

The Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 349
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Silver:

I am honored to present to you the Annual Report for the Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology for the 2011 legislative session. It is my privilege to serve as Chair of this Committee and I look forward to working with you and the rest of my colleagues to provide much needed support and assistance to New York's library community.

The Assembly Majority and the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology are dedicated to working to maintain resources for the libraries of New York State. In the 2011-12 State Budget, the Executive proposed an \$8.446 million reduction in Aid to Public Libraries. Despite the challenging fiscal times, the Assembly Majority was able to restore \$3 million in funding and was able to continue the \$8 million in formula supplemental grants for library systems. Language was also included in the final approved budget to ensure that the appropriations for libraries and library systems are reduced proportionately, assuring that all programs will continue to receive funding. Finally, the budget provided \$14 million in funding to continue statewide library capital projects for the sixth consecutive year.

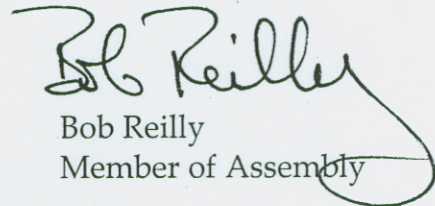
In addition, the Committee was able to advance some very important legislation this session. A main legislative priority for the Committee was a measure that allows public library systems to apply for Local Government Efficiency Grants. Another top priority for the Committee was legislation that provides the State Library with the flexibility to determine which five days of the week the library should be open in order to better serve the public. The Committee also reported several pieces of local legislation for libraries across the State. One of these local bills changes the polling place and voting hours for the annual elections of the Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library. Another local bill creates the Norfolk Public

Library for the towns of Potsdam and Stockholm. All four of the above mentioned bills were passed by the Assembly and signed into law by the Executive.

Our State's libraries offer a range of essential services to the public, including Internet access, literacy programs and research materials, and employ staff with the skills to support these services. The Assembly Majority has made it a priority to secure the funding necessary to help libraries maintain these services. I look forward to the upcoming session as we continue to work to ensure that our libraries get the support they need.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee and all of the members of the Assembly Majority for their commitment and dedication to the work of the Committee. I would also like to thank you for your unwavering support of this Committee on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end that loops back under the word "Assembly" in the typed text below.

Bob Reilly
Member of Assembly

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES
AND EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY**

Bob Reilly, Chair

Committee Members

Majority

Thomas J. Abinanti
Barbara M. Clark
Grace Meng
Samuel D. Roberts
Kenneth Zebrowski

Minority

Philip M. Boyle
Marcus J. Molinaro
Philip A. Palmesano

Staff

Mark Casellini, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Lindsey Facticeau, Legislative Analyst
Suzanne Bolling, Associate Counsel
Karen Bodnaryk, Committee Clerk
Laura Inglis, Program and Counsel Executive Secretary

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I. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Libraries and Education Technology Committee was created in 1997 under the leadership of Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver. The Committee has jurisdiction over legislation introduced concerning the many issues affecting public, academic, school and private libraries. The Committee develops and reviews legislation affecting the administration and funding of libraries and library systems across New York State. As today's explosion in information technology has placed new demands on libraries, we are mindful of our responsibility to ensure that New York's libraries will be able to meet the challenges of the information age. The work done by the Committee assists libraries to sustain the infrastructure and staff resources necessary to allow all New Yorkers access to technological advances available through New York's vast library community.

Libraries are integral to the educational and cultural development of all New Yorkers. Through a wealth of electronic and print media, New York's libraries provide individuals and communities with exposure to information that broadens their intellectual, social and cultural experiences. New York State has over 7,000 libraries that serve our citizens in many capacities. Many of these libraries are among the largest and the best in the country. Of the forty largest libraries in the United States, six are located in New York, more than any other state. New York's largest library, the New York Public Library, contains over ten million volumes and is among the top research institutions in the world. Among New York's most cherished resources, our libraries provide support for all those in search of information, knowledge, enlightenment or inspiration, whether they are students, teachers, researchers, academicians, authors, readers, job seekers, entrepreneurs or consumers.

As libraries are called upon to play an expanding role in educating New Yorkers, it is imperative that our libraries receive the attention and support they require to answer the call as we move forward in the 21st century.

II. PROVIDING LIBRARIES WITH NECESSARY RESOURCES

The libraries of New York State work hard to meet the needs of the populations that they serve. However, those needs may vary widely, even within one district. Public, academic and school libraries cannot serve their patrons without an adequate and reliable source of funding. The New York State Assembly has long supported libraries and the educational, economic and cultural roles they play in their communities. The Assembly Majority is committed to providing libraries with resources to meet the needs of all of our state's citizens. Providing these resources requires a well-focused policy commitment as well as significant state financial support.

The Assembly Majority has made increased funding for New York's libraries a priority. To meet the funding needs of New York libraries, Chapter 917 of 1990 was enacted, establishing a formula which was designed to provide stable funding for both library systems and individual libraries based on the most current census figures. Unfortunately, New York State has been facing incredibly difficult economic times. As a result, the Executive has proposed several reductions in funding for libraries and library systems. In the 2011-12 State Budget, the Executive proposed an \$8.446 million reduction in Aid to Public Libraries. Despite the challenging fiscal times, the Assembly Majority was able to restore \$3 million in funding and continue the \$8 million in formula supplemental grants for library systems. These funds come at a critical time, as library systems are cutting back on much-needed services. In addition, language was included in the budget to ensure that the appropriations for libraries and library systems are reduced proportionately, assuring that all programs will continue to receive funding. Finally, the approved final budget provided \$14 million in funding to continue statewide library capital projects. This is the sixth consecutive year that the Assembly Majority has provided this level of funding for library construction. These construction funds have come at a crucial time for libraries, as nearly half of the state's library buildings are 50 or more years old.

The final budget for Fiscal Year 2011-12 provided \$79.012 million in aid for libraries and library systems. This is an approximate decrease of 6.4% from the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget allocation of \$84.458 million.

In spite of the difficult economic times we are currently facing, the Committee was able to advance some very important local legislation for the library community across New York State.

Local library legislation

A.587, Jaffee; Governor's Veto Message #31 This bill would repeal and re-create the Orangetown Public Library District to require that each member library individually submit its own budget proposal to the town. In addition, this bill would permit the Town

Board to exercise its discretion with respect to all appropriations adopted for each library for the ensuing year.

A.4326, Jordan This bill would authorize the Stephentown Memorial Library, currently a free association library, to re-charter as a special district public library subject to a referendum of the voters. This bill passed the Assembly.

A.4765, Burling; Chapter 461 of 2011 This law dissolves the Wadsworth Library, an association library created in 1869, and transfers all of its assets, holdings and belongings to the Wadsworth Library, a public school district library established by vote in 2007 and chartered by the Board of Regents in 2008.

A.5791, Cahill; Chapter 415 of 2011 This law changes the voting hours of the West Hurley Public Library during its annual election and changes the number of members required to serve on the library's Board of Trustees.

A.7652-A, Jaffee; Chapter 310 of 2011 This law changes the polling place and voting hours for the annual elections of the Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library.

A.7817, Barclay; Chapter 480 of 2011 This law dissolves the Oswego City Library and transfers all of its assets, holdings, and belongings to the Oswego School District Public Library.

A.8068-A, Russell; Chapter 533 of 2011 This law authorizes the creation of the Norfolk Public Library and outlines the procedures to be undertaken for the voters to consider this proposal on the ballot.

III. IMPROVING AND EXPANDING NEW YORK STATE LIBRARIES

New Yorkers are fortunate to have one of the richest assortments of library resources in the nation. Even when resources are limited, New York maintains hundreds of chartered public or association libraries, 23 public library systems, nine reference and research library systems and numerous specialized libraries. In addition, 42 school library systems serve the over 1,400 school libraries located in elementary and secondary schools. From the New York Public Library, nationally recognized as one of the top research libraries in the world, to the smallest community-based book exchange, libraries play a vital role in the lives of New Yorkers.

The Assembly Libraries and Education Technology Committee considered legislation in 2011 designed to expand and improve libraries throughout New York State.

Public Library Construction Grant Program

A.113-A, Paulin; Chapter 498 of 2011 This law includes the acquisition of vacant land within the scope of construction projects that are eligible for State aid. In addition, this law allows libraries that serve economically disadvantaged communities to be eligible to receive State aid for up to seventy-five percent of the approved total project costs.

Distribution of Public Library Information

A.6239-A, Bing This bill would require school districts outside of New York City to distribute informational materials about the local public library to students enrolled in the school district. This bill passed the Assembly.

Local Government Efficiency Grants

A.6468-B, Reilly; Chapter 470 of 2011 This law adds public library systems to the list of municipalities that are eligible to apply for Local Government Efficiency Grants.

Hours of the New York State Library

A.6839, Nolan; Chapter 261 of 2011 This law requires the State Library to be open at least eight hours each day on five days every week in the year except on specified legal holidays.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Funding Public Libraries in New York State

Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology

November 29, 2011
10:00 a.m.
Hamilton Hearing Room B
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York

The purpose of this hearing was to seek testimony on the impact the 2011-12 State budget has had on public libraries across New York State. In addition, the Committee was seeking testimony to ascertain the future needs of our public libraries and library systems.

In the 2011-12 State budget, the Executive proposed an \$8.4 million reduction in Aid to Public Libraries. Despite the challenging fiscal times, the Legislature was able to restore \$3 million in library funding. The final approved budget for 2011-12 provided \$79 million in state aid for libraries and library systems, including a continuation of \$8 million in formula supplemental grants for library systems. In addition, language was included in the budget to ensure that the funding for libraries and library systems are impacted proportionately, assuring that all programs will continue to receive funding. Finally, the budget provided \$14 million in capital funding to continue the Public Library Construction Grant Program for the sixth consecutive year.

Individuals who testified at the hearing include: Jeffrey W. Cannell, Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education and Acting State Librarian, State Education Department; Michael Borges, Executive Director, New York Library Association; Richard Reyes-Gavilian, Chief Librarian, Brooklyn Public Library; Kevin Winkler, Deputy Director for Public Service, New York Public Library; Maureen O'Connor, Director of Programs & Services, Queens Library; James L. Farrell, Director, Ossining Public Library; Mary Ellen O'Connor, President, Library Trustees Association of New York State; Terry Kirchner, Executive Director, Westchester Library System; Sara Dallas, Director, Southern Adirondack Library System; Alexandra Gutelius, Library Director, Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library; Richard Naylor, Library Director, William K. Sanford Town Library; Jane Suddaby, Trustee, Onondaga County Public Library; Amy Thorna, Literacy Coordinator, Onondaga County Public Library; Yam Bhattarai, Student and Employee, Onondaga County Public Library; Robert Hubsher, Executive Director, Ramapo Catskill Library System; James Mahoney, Nyack Library; Marilyn McIntosh, Monroe Free Library; Mary Jean Jakubowski, Director, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System; Ristiina Wigg, Executive Director, Southern Tier Library System; Denise King, Trustee, Southern Tier Library System; Ronald Shaw, Southern Tier

Library System; Kevin Verbese, Director, Suffolk Cooperative Library System; Timothy Burke, Executive Director, Upper Hudson Library System; Kimberly Iraci, Executive Director, Finger Lakes Library System; Christine Griffin, President of the Board of Trustees, Finger Lakes Library System; Sally Eller, Trustee, Finger Lakes Library System, and President, Edith B. Ford Memorial Library; Mike Nyerges, Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System; Jean K. Sheviak, Executive Director, Capital District Library Council; Wanda Bruchis, Executive Director, Mid York Library System; and Darby O'Brien, Library Director, Utica Public Library.

The testimony provided at the hearing sounded a common theme. Libraries and library systems are a model of the efficiency and effectiveness of collaboration and the use of technology. Our state supported library systems provide New Yorkers with access to library materials and services which many communities would not otherwise be able to afford. With the help of public and private funding, library systems help local libraries collaborate to better leverage local resources. As a result, libraries have been able to provide more resources and services in a cost-effective way. Throughout the hearing, each witness sought to demonstrate to the Committee what increased state investment could do for our libraries and our local communities.

V. COMMITTEE OUTLOOK FOR 2012

In the 2012 legislative session, the Committee's top priority will be to remain focused on maintaining library aid, including library construction aid. While the economic climate is currently unfavorable for expansion of state projects, it is essential to provide libraries with adequate resources. Additional goals for the 2012 session will include working to infuse funding into projects such as the Statewide Internet Library and the Talking Book and Braille Library, as well as examining library systems aid.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON
LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

<u>FINAL ACTION</u>	<u>ASSEMBLY BILLS</u>	<u>SENATE BILLS</u>	<u>TOTAL BILLS</u>
<u>Bills Reported With or Without Amendment</u>			
To Floor; not returning to Committee	2	0	2
To Floor; Recommitted and Died			
To Ways and Means Committee	7	0	7
To Codes Committee	0	0	0
To Rules Committee	2	0	2
To Judiciary Committee	0	0	0
Total	11	0	11
<u>Bills Having Committee Reference Changed</u>			
To Ways and Means	1	0	1
Total	1	0	1
<u>Senate Bills Substituted or Recalled</u>			
Substituted		0	0
Recalled		0	0
Total		0	0
<u>Bills Defeated in Committee</u>	0	0	0
<u>Bills Never Reported, Held in Committee</u>	19	0	19
<u>Bills Never Reported, Died in Committee</u>			
<u>Bills Having Enacting Clause Stricken</u>	1	0	1
<u>Motion to Discharge Lost</u>	0	0	0
<u>TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE</u>	32	0	32
TOTAL NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD	4		

**APPENDIX B
CHAPTERS OF 2011**

Bill Number/Sponsor	Chapter Number	Description
A.113-A/ Paulin	Chap. 498	Amends the Public Library Construction Grant Program.
A.4765/ Burling	Chap. 461	Dissolves the Wadsworth Library and transfers all of its assets, holdings, and belongings to the newly created Wadsworth Library.
A.5791/ Cahill	Chap. 415	Changes the voting hours of the West Hurley Public Library and the number of members required to serve on the library's Board of Trustees.
A.6468-B/ Reilly	Chap. 470	Allows public library systems to apply for Local Government Efficiency Grants.
A.6839/ Nolan	Chap. 261	Requires the State Library to be open at least eight hours each day on five days every week.
A.7652-A/ Jaffee	Chap. 310	Changes the polling place and voting hours for the annual elections of the Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library.
A.7817/ Barclay	Chap. 480	Dissolves the Oswego City Library and transfer all of its assets, holdings, and belongings to the Oswego School District Public Library.
A.8068-A/ Russell	Chap. 533	Creates the Norfolk Public Library.