

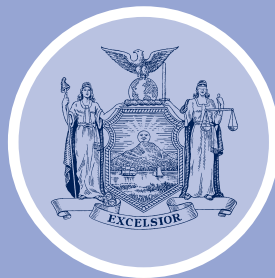


NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

A N N U A L

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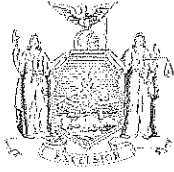
R E P O R T



**Committee on
Libraries & Education Technology**

Bob Reilly, Chair

SHELDON SILVER, SPEAKER



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

THE ASSEMBLY
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 ALBANY

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 Libraries and Education Technology
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 Agriculture Economic Development
 and Farmland Protection
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 Sports Development

December 15, 2012

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 2012 legislative session. It has been my privilege to serve as Chair of this Committee as we have sought 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. The final approved budget for 2012-13 provided \$82.927 million in state aid for libraries and library systems. This is an approximate increase of \$3.915 million from the 2011-12 budget allocation of \$79.012 million. Language was also 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 budget provided \$14 million in funding to continue statewide library capital projects for the seventh 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 requires 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. Another top priority for the Committee was legislation that provides that any new library system established through merger would continue to receive at least the same level of funding annually as the component systems would have received individually as of the fiscal year immediately preceding the merger. This bill also passed the Assembly but was unfortunately vetoed by the Executive.

The Committee also reported several pieces of local legislation for libraries across the State. Two of these local bills extend the polling hours for the annual elections of the Hyde Park Library District and Staatsburg Library District. Another local bill provides that the Wallkill Public Library District have at least seven but no more than eleven members on the library's Board of Trustees. The Committee also reported three local bills that would add the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library District, the Guilderland Public Library, and the Mamakating Library District to the list of libraries that are eligible for financing through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York. All of these local 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 know in the upcoming session that my colleagues will continue to work to ensure that our libraries get the support that 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 and for allowing me the privilege of serving as Chair of this Committee for the past two years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Reilly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bob Reilly
Member of Assembly

2012 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
Philip A. Palmesano
Raymond Walter

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. The final approved budget for 2012-13 provided \$82.927 million in state aid for libraries and library systems. This is an approximate increase of 4.95%, or \$3.915 million, from the 2011-12 budget allocation of \$79.012 million. These funds come at a critical time, as library systems have been cutting back on much-needed services during these incredibly difficult economic times. 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 seventh 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.

In addition to increased funding for Aid to Public Libraries, the Committee was able to advance some very important local legislation for the library community across New York State.

Local library legislation

A.8313-B, J. Miller; Chapter 411 of 2012 This law authorizes the LaGrange Public Library, currently a free association library, to re-charter as a special district public library subject to a referendum of the voters.

A.9159, Gunther; Chapter 35 of 2012 This law adds the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library District to the list of libraries that are eligible for financing through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.

A.9236-A, McEneny; Chapter 313 of 2012 This law adds the Guilderland Public Library to the list of libraries that are eligible for financing through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.

A.9514, Montesano; Chapter 207 of 2012 This law extends the time period for the Nassau Library System to establish the Brookville Library Funding District from November 1, 2011 to November 1, 2013.

A.9569-A, Jaffee; Chapter 494 of 2012 This law repeals and re-creates the Orangetown Public Library District to require that each member library individually submit its own budget proposal to the town. In addition, this law permits the Town Board to exercise its discretion with respect to all appropriations adopted for each library for the ensuing year.

A.9929-A, J. Miller; Chapter 239 of 2012 This law authorizes the Grinnell Public Library, currently a free association library, to re-charter as a special district public library subject to a referendum of the voters.

A.10062-A, Jordan; Chapter 245 of 2012 This law dissolves the Bancroft Public Library, created in 1889, and transfers all of its assets, holdings and belongings to the newly created Bancroft Public Library, which was granted a five-year provisional charter by the Board of Regents in December 2011.

A.10089, J. Miller; Chapter 163 of 2012 This law extends the polling hours for the annual elections of the Hyde Park Library District.

A.10196, Skartados; Chapter 195 of 2012 This law provides that the Wallkill Public Library District have at least seven but no more than eleven members on the library's Board of Trustees. Current law requires that the library have eleven members on the Board of Trustees.

A.10305-A, Gunther; Chapter 171 of 2012 This law adds the Mamakating Library District to the list of libraries that are eligible for financing through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.

A.10335, J. Miller; Chapter 172 of 2012 This law extends the polling hours for the annual elections of the Staatsburg Library District.

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 2012 designed to expand and improve libraries throughout New York State.

Public Library System Mergers

A.2427-A, Pretlow This bill would provide supplemental state aid for a public library system created by merging two or more existing public library systems. This bill was reported to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

A.10347, Reilly; Governor's Veto Message #171 This bill would provide that any new public library system or reference and research library resources system established through merger on or after April 1, 2012 shall continue to receive at least the same level of funding annually as the component systems would have received individually as of the fiscal year immediately preceding the year in which the merger was approved.

Distribution of Public Library Information

A.8976, Reilly 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.

Flexibility for Libraries and Library Systems

A.10346, Reilly This bill would provide that if state funds appropriated for library aid are less than 85% of the statutory formula amounts, the financial penalties for failing to meet the local maintenance of effort requirements would be waived. In addition, this bill would provide that, if state funds appropriated for library aid are less than 85% of the statutory formula amounts, the Commissioner of the State Education Department may waive the requirements of certain programs upon request by a library system. This bill was reported to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Funding Public Libraries in New York State

Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology

November 29, 2012
10:00 a.m.
Hamilton Hearing Room B
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York

The final approved budget for 2012-13 provided \$82.927 million in state aid for libraries and library systems. This is an approximate increase of 4.95%, or \$3.915 million, from the 2011-12 budget allocation of \$79.012 million. Language was also 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 seventh consecutive year.

The purpose of this hearing was to seek testimony on the impact the 2012-13 State budget has had on public libraries and library systems across New York State. As libraries continue to represent a community investment, the Committee was seeking testimony detailing how State funding is being used. Specifically, the Committee was interested in hearing about the programs and services libraries and library systems are providing in their local communities. In addition, the Committee was seeking testimony on how libraries and library systems are using collaboration and technology to better leverage their resources. Finally, the Committee was seeking testimony to ascertain the future funding needs of our public libraries and library systems.

Individuals who testified at the hearing include: Jeffrey Cannell, Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education, State Education Department; Bernard Margolis, New York State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries, New York State Library; Carol Anne Germain, President, New York Library Association; Claudia Depkin, Director, Haverstraw's Daughters Public Library; Robert Hubsher, Executive Director, Ramapo Catskill Library System; Marilyn McIntosh, Director, Monroe Free Library; Ira Simon, President, Ramapo Catskill Library System; Terry Kirchner, Executive Director, Westchester Library System; Dave Donelson, President, Westchester Library System; Mary Jean Jakubowski, Director, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System; Sheryl Knab, Executive Director, Western New York Library Resources Council; Thomas Bindeman, Executive Director, Nioga Library System; Maureen O'Connor, Senior Advisor, Queens Library; Jean Sheviak, Executive Director, Capital District Library Council; Timothy Burke, Executive Committee, New York Alliance of

Library Systems; John Eberhardt, Library Trustees Association of New York State; Sara Dallas, Director, Southern Adirondack Library System; David Golden, Library Trustee, Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library; Alex Gutelius, Director, Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library; Kathy Naftaly, Acting Director, Crandall Public Library; J'aimé Pfeiffer, School Library System Director, Capital Region BOCES; and Jennifer Ogradowski, Youth Services Director, Saratoga Springs Public Library.

The testimony provided at the hearing sounded two common themes. First, we heard about the impact Superstorm Sandy has had on libraries throughout New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County. Although there was extensive damage to several libraries, the libraries that were able to open played a vital role in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy providing heat, electricity, food, and in some cases shelter. Libraries also provided access to news, programs to entertain and educate children, emergency information and resources, and offices for FEMA and other relief organizations. Among the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy, libraries were able to provide critical services to the people in their local communities.

The other common theme we heard repeated was that library systems are a model for efficiency, collaboration, and consolidation in New York State. By sharing resources and providing centralized and cooperative services, library systems have been able to provide resources and services to our local libraries in a cost-effective way. In turn, this allows our local libraries to better leverage their own resources to provide access to library materials and services which many communities would not otherwise be able to afford without their library systems. Unfortunately, New York State has been facing incredibly difficult economic times. As a result, funding for libraries and library systems has been reduced significantly. Each witness at the hearing sought to demonstrate to the Committee what increased state funding could do for both our libraries and our local communities. For these reasons, our hearing respondents asked that the Assembly restore funding for libraries and library systems back to their 2008 level of \$102 million.

V. COMMITTEE OUTLOOK FOR 2013

In the 2013 legislative session, the Committee's top priority will be to remain focused on maintaining Aid to Public Libraries and statewide library construction aid. While the economic climate is currently unfavorable for expansion of state projects, it is essential to provide libraries and library systems with adequate resources to ensure their continued viability. Additional goals for the 2013 session will include advancing important local legislation for our library community as well as advancing legislation designed to expand and improve our libraries and library systems throughout New York State.

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	3		3
To Floor; Recommitted and Died			
To Ways and Means Committee	12		12
To Codes Committee	0		0
To Rules Committee	0		0
To Judiciary Committee	0		0
Total	15		15
<u>Bills Having Committee Reference Changed</u>	0		0
Total	0		0
<u>Senate Bills Substituted or Recalled</u>			
Substituted		5	5
Recalled		0	0
Total		5	5
<u>Bills Defeated in Committee</u>	0	0	0
<u>Bills Held for Consideration with a Roll-Call Vote</u>	10	0	10
<u>Bills Never Reported, Died in Committee</u>	8	2	10
<u>Bills Having Enacting Clause Stricken</u>	2	0	2
<u>Motion to Discharge Lost</u>	0	0	0
TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE	35	7	42
TOTAL NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD	3		

**APPENDIX B
CHAPTERS OF 2012**

Bill Number/Sponsor	Chapter Number	Description
A.8313-B/ J. Miller	Chap. 411	Changes the LaGrange Public Library from a free association library to a special district library.
A.9159/ Gunther	Chap. 35	Adds the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library District to the list of libraries that are eligible for financing through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.
A.9236-A/ McEneny	Chap. 313	Adds the Guilderland Public Library to the list of libraries that are eligible for financing through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.
A.9514/ Montesano	Chap. 207	Extends the time period for the Nassau Library System to establish the Brookville Library Funding District.
A.9569-A/ Jaffee	Chap. 494	Repeals and re-creates the Orangetown Public Library District.
A.9929-A/ J. Miller	Chap. 239	Changes the Grinnell Public Library from a free association library to a special district library.
A.10062-A/ Jordan	Chap. 245	Dissolves the Bancroft Public Library and transfers all of its assets, holdings, and belongings to the newly created Bancroft Public Library.
A.10089/ J. Miller	Chap. 163	Extends the polling hours for the annual elections of the Hyde Park Library District.
A.10196/ Skartados	Chap. 195	Changes the number of trustees elected to the Board of Trustees of the Wallkill Public Library District.
A.10305-A/ Gunther	Chap. 171	Adds the Mamakating Library District to the list of libraries that are eligible for financing through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.
A.10335/ J. Miller	Chap. 172	Extends the polling hours for the annual elections of the Staatsburg Library District.