

2017

ANNUAL REPORT



New York State Assembly

Carl E. Heastie

Speaker

Committee on

**Libraries and
Education Technology**

Dan Quart

Chair



Dan Quart
Member of Assembly
73RD District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Legislative Commission on Administrative
Regulations Review

COMMITTEES
Alcoholism & Drug Abuse
Corporations, Authorities & Commissions
Consumer Affairs & Protection
Judiciary
Tourism, Parks, Arts & Sports Development

December 15, 2017

The Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 349
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

I am honored to present to you the Annual Report for the Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology for the 2017 legislative session. It was my privilege to serve as Chair of this Committee and to have worked 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 increase resources for the libraries of New York State. The enacted budget for 2017-18 fiscal year provided \$95.6 million in state aid for libraries and library systems. The budget also maintained funding for the Conservation and Preservation Program and the Talking Book and Braille Library making their total funding \$693,000. Finally, the budget provided \$24 million in funding to continue statewide library capital projects.

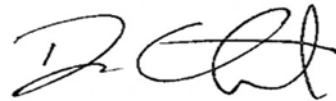
Libraries and library systems efficiently and equitably provide critical services, education and access to information to New Yorkers throughout their lives. No other state-funded service serves so many people for so few dollars. Libraries provide:

- Early literacy programs for preschool children in many languages;
- Resources and homework help for school-age children;
- Workforce development programs ranging from Test Assessing Secondary Completion / General Educational Development classes, to English as a Second Language classes, to workshops for adults in job-seeking or resume-writing;
- Access to literature and arts through books groups and workshops;
- Trained facilitators to help families enroll in New York State Health Marketplace; and
- Information/help for seniors applying for Social Security and Medicare.

Our constituents overwhelmingly support their libraries. Generally, 97% of library budgets are approved by voters. Only in a public library is so much available free of charge. In more than two-thirds of New York communities, public libraries are the only source of free internet access. For many low-income families, the local library is the primary source of internet access. Without such access, many New York residents would find it difficult or impossible to research employment opportunities, file their income taxes, apply to college, and become informed voters. 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 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Quart', written in a cursive style.

Dan Quart
Member of Assembly

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

Dan Quart, Chair

Committee Members

Majority

Steven Otis
Michaëlle C. Solages
Michael P. Kearns
Brian Barnwell
Inez E. Dickens
Yuh-Line Niou

Minority

Philip A. Palmesano
Mary Beth Walsh

Staff

Christian Malanga, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Steven R. McCutcheon, Legislative Analyst
Benjamin Decker, Associate Counsel
Amanda Wallwin, Chief of Staff
Jeannine Barcher, Program and Counsel Executive Secretary

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I. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Libraries and Education Technology Committee was created in 1997. It has jurisdiction over legislation affecting public, academic, school and private libraries. Its jurisdiction includes legislation affecting the administration and funding of libraries and library systems across New York State.

The Committee has endeavored to assist libraries to sustain and upgrade their infrastructure and staff resources. The Committee has attempted to assist libraries to meet the challenges of the information age and provide New Yorkers access to technological advances through the resources of New York's vast library community.

New York State has over 7,000 libraries – some among the largest and the best in the country. Six of the 40 largest libraries in the United States are in New York, more than any other state. New York's largest library, the New York Public Library, contains over 10 million volumes and is among the top research institutions in the world.

Libraries have become a modern super-community center. Libraries are an integral part of the education and cultural development of New Yorkers. New York libraries provide a wealth of print and electronic resources that offer individuals and communities access to every type of information. Today libraries provide a central location for those who seek information, those who seek recreation or those who seek social interaction with members of their community.

II. PROVIDING LIBRARIES WITH NECESSARY RESOURCES

New York State libraries have demonstrated that they can meet the diverse needs of very diverse populations. However, public, academic and school libraries need adequate resources and reliable funding sources.

The Committee's efforts and commitment to providing libraries with sufficient resources reflects the Assembly's longstanding support for libraries and the educational, economic and cultural roles they play in their communities.

Funding for New York's libraries has been and continues to be a priority. To meet their funding needs, Chapter 917 of 1990 was enacted to establish a formula to provide stable funding for libraries and library systems based on census population numbers.

The 2017-18 state budget provided \$95.6 million in state aid for libraries and library systems. The approved budget also maintained funding for the Conservation and Preservation Program and the Talking Book and Braille Library totaling at \$693,000. Finally, the budget provided \$24 million in capital funding, an increase of \$5 million. These construction funds are crucial, as nearly half of the state's library buildings are over 60 years old.

In addition, the Committee advanced some significant local legislation to benefit New York's library community.

Local library legislation

A.5265, Friend; Passed Assembly This bill would allow the Chemung County Library District to vote for any proposed budget at the annual election conducted by the Chemung County Library board of trustees or at the annual general election conducted by the local board of elections.

A.5529, Englebright; Chapter 41 of 2017 This law places the Port Jefferson Free Library on the list of libraries eligible for financing assistance from the Dormitory Authority.

A.7497, Fahy; Chapter 318 of 2017 This law places the Bethlehem Public Library on the list of libraries eligible for financing assistance from the Dormitory Authority.

A.8458, Palmesano; Chapter 330 of 2017 This law places the Southeast Steuben County Library on the list of libraries eligible for financing assistance from the Dormitory Authority.

III. IMPROVING AND EXPANDING NEW YORK STATE LIBRARIES

New York State is the home to hundreds of public, school, association and private libraries. It has 23 public library systems, and nine reference and research library systems. It has 41 school library systems serving over 1,400 school libraries in elementary and secondary schools. It has hundreds of private libraries. From the largest library to the smallest community-based book exchange, all of New York's libraries play a vital role in our communities.

The Committee acted on several important measures in 2017 designed to expand and improve libraries throughout New York State.

Aid for Public Libraries

A.5810-A, Quart; Chapter 346 of 2017 This law would require the Empire State Development Corporation, in consultation with the State Education Department, to conduct a study on the economic impact of public libraries and public library systems.

A.7630, Quart; Passed Assembly This bill would require the State Education Department, in consultation with the Dormitory Authority, Office of the State Comptroller, and Public Library Systems to conduct a study on the access public libraries and library systems have to capital funding.

IV. COMMITTEE OUTLOOK FOR 2018

The Committee's top priorities in the 2018 legislative session will be the following:

First, maintain and increase Aid to Public Libraries. Despite a significant increase, 2017 state aid is still less than previous highs.

Second, maintain and increase statewide library construction aid. With approximately half of New York's public library buildings being 60 or more years old, it is essential to provide libraries with adequate resources.

Third, advance local legislation important to the library community. With an ever-increasing, diverse New York State population, we must provide each library with the flexibility it needs to properly serve its community.

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 | 0 | | 0 |
| To Floor; Recommitted and Died | 0 | | 0 |
| To Ways and Means Committee | 4 | | 4 |
| To Codes Committee | 0 | | 0 |
| To Rules Committee | 1 | | 1 |
| To Judiciary Committee | 0 | | 0 |
| | | | |
| Total | 5 | | 5 |
| | | | |
| <u>Bills Having Committee Reference Changed</u> | 1 | | 1 |
| | | | |
| Total | 1 | | 1 |
| | | | |
| <u>Senate Bills Substituted or Recalled</u> | | | |
| | | | |
| Substituted | | 1 | 1 |
| Recalled | | 0 | 0 |
| | | | |
| Total | | 1 | 1 |
| | | | |
| <u>Bills Defeated in Committee</u> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Bills Held for Consideration with a Roll-Call Vote</u> | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| <u>Bills Never Reported, Held in Committee</u> | 11 | 3 | 14 |
| <u>Bills Having Enacting Clause Stricken</u> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Motion to Discharge Lost</u> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | |
| <u>TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE</u> | 18 | 4 | 22 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD | 2 | | |
| | | | |

**APPENDIX B
CHAPTERS OF 2017**

| Bill Number/Sponsor | Chapter Number | Description |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| A.5529 / Englebright | Chapter 41 | This law places the Port Jefferson Free Library on the list of libraries eligible for financing assistance from the Dormitory Authority. |
| A.5810-A / Quart | Chapter 346 | This law would require the Empire State Development Corporation, in consultation with the State Education Department, to conduct a study on the economic impact of public libraries and public library systems. |
| A.7497/ Fahy | Chapter 318 | This law places the Bethlehem Public Library on the list of libraries eligible for financing assistance from the Dormitory Authority. |
| A.8458 / Palmesano | Chapter 330 | This law places the Southeast Steuben County Library on the list of libraries eligible for financing assistance from the Dormitory Authority. |

