

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

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Committee On  
Libraries and Education Technology

Carl E. Heastie • Speaker  
Kimberly Jean-Pierre • Chair



ANNUAL REPORT



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

KIMBERLY JEAN-PIERRE  
Assembly District 11

640 West Montauk Highway  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757-5538

CHAIR  
Committee on Libraries and Education  
Technology

Legislative Women's Caucus

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Corporations, Authorities and  
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Task Force on Women's Issues

December 15, 2022

Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker of the Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to present to you the 2022 Annual Report for the Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology. The work accomplished during the 2022 legislative session reflects the commitment of the Committee and me to ensure libraries and library systems throughout the state can continue to be community hubs providing critical services, educational resources, and access to information for all New Yorkers.

This year, the Assembly Majority and the Committee remained dedicated to increasing resources for libraries throughout New York State. The 2022-23 enacted state budget provided \$99.6 million in state aid for libraries and library systems and maintained capital funding for library projects at \$34 million.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for their continued contributions to this past year's achievements. Finally, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your leadership and support of our libraries.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Jean-Pierre  
Chair, Committee on Libraries and Education  
Technology

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY**

**Kimberly Jean-Pierre, Chair**

**Committee Members**

**Majority**

Michaelle C. Solages  
Inez E. Dickens  
Yuh-Line Niou  
Karen M. McMahon  
Jennifer A. Lunsford

**Minority**

Josh Jensen, *Ranker*  
Mary Beth Walsh

**Majority Staff**

Maria Volpe-McDermott, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy  
Benjamin Decker, Associate Counsel  
Kevin Carmody, Committee Clerk  
MaryEllen O'Connor, Program and Counsel Executive Secretary

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## **I. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION**

The Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology was created in 1997. It has jurisdiction over legislation affecting public, academic, school, and special libraries as well as the administration and funding of libraries and library systems across New York State. The Committee has endeavored to assist libraries in sustaining and upgrading their infrastructure, as well as meeting the challenges of the information age. Libraries have become modern community centers playing an integral part in the education and cultural development of New Yorkers.

New York State is home to a total of 73 library systems: 23 public library systems, nine reference and research library systems, and 40 school library systems. There are 755 public libraries statewide. 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. Statewide, over 19 million people utilize New York State's public library systems. From the largest library to the smallest community-based book exchange, all of New York's libraries play a vital role in our communities.

During the 2022 legislative session, 14 bills were referred to the Libraries and Education Technology Committee. This report provides a detailed examination of the Committee's budgetary and legislative achievements in 2022.

## **II. STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

New York State libraries work hard to meet the diverse needs of our state. The Committee's efforts and commitment to providing libraries with sufficient funding reflects the Assembly's longstanding support for libraries and the educational, economic, and cultural roles they play in their communities.

### **State Aid**

Chapter 917 of the Laws of 1990 established a formula to provide stable funding for libraries and library systems based on the most recent census data.

The Legislature provided \$99.6 million in state aid for libraries and library systems, an increase of \$3.5 million over the Executive's proposal.

The Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL) is a free library service for eligible residents of upstate New York who are unable to use standard print materials due to a visual or physical disability. TBBL serves over 15,000 New Yorkers. The Legislature maintained funding for the Conservation and Preservation Program and the Talking Book and Braille Library at a combined \$713,000.

The Legislature also provided \$375,000 for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and \$112,500 for the Langston Hughes Community Library.

### **Capital**

The Legislature provided \$34 million in funding to continue statewide library capital projects, a restoration of \$20 million over the Executive's proposal.

### **Other**

The Legislature appropriated \$150,000 to fund the Statewide Summer Reading Program from revenues collected from the sale of Love Your Library license plates.

### III. LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Committee acted on several important measures this session designed to assist libraries throughout New York State.

**A.8810, Lavine; Chapter 324 of the Laws of 2022:** This law increases the petition time frame and required legal notice for the Gold Coast Public Library District trustee elections from thirteen days to thirty days.

**A.9448-A, Stirpe; Veto Message No. 63:** This legislation would direct the Commissioner of Tax and Finance, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, public libraries, public library systems, and association libraries, to study and issue a report to the Legislature on the frequency of residents who are being assessed library taxes for more than one public library or association library.

**A.9487-A, Jean-Pierre; Chapter 333 of the Laws of 2022:** This law extends the time frame for when library construction aid is provided to libraries from four years to six years.

## **IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **A. The Future of New York State's Libraries**

December 15, 2022

10:00 A.M.

Albany, New York

The Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology held a hearing on Thursday, December 15, 2022 on the future of New York State's libraries. Specifically, the Committee sought to hear testimony about the financial and programmatic issues and challenges libraries are facing in providing programs and services to their communities.

The Committee heard testimony from the State Education Department, New York Library Association, Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES, Bethlehem Public Library, Mid-Hudson Library System, Webster Public Library, Lindenhurst Memorial Library, Townsend Harris High School, St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES, Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES, Altamont Free Library, Onondaga County Public Library, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, University at Buffalo, and the Western New York Library Resources Council.



## **V. OUTLOOK FOR 2023**

For the upcoming legislative session, the Committee will continue to advocate for an increase in Aid to Public Libraries and capital funding to ensure our libraries are adequately funded.

In addition, the Committee will continue to ensure digital equity and bolster access to technology to enable individuals and families around the state to stay connected within their communities.

Finally, the Committee will continue to advance local legislation important to libraries. With an increasingly diverse New York State population, we must provide each library with the flexibility it needs to properly serve the needs of its community.

**APPENDIX A**

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

**TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD: 1**

	<u>ASSEMBLY BILLS</u>	<u>SENATE BILLS</u>	<u>TOTAL BILLS</u>
<b>BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO</b>			
TO CODES	0	0	0
TO JUDICIARY	0	0	0
TO WAYS AND MEANS	2	0	2
TO RULES	1	0	1
TO FLOOR	0	0	0
TOTAL	3	0	3
<b>COMMITTEE ACTION</b>			
HELD FOR CONSIDERATION	0	0	0
DEFEATED	0	0	0
ENACTING CLAUSE STRICKEN	0	0	0
<b>REMAINING IN COMMITTEE</b>	13	1	14
<b>BILLS REFERENCE CHANGED TO:</b>			
TOTAL	0	0	0