



*The Voice of the Library Community*

**New York Library Association**

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## **NYLA 2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### **Guarantee Students' Rights to School Libraries and Librarians**

[A.6023 Solages](#) / no same as

#### **Background:**

- New York State Law currently denies the right for all students to access quality school libraries staffed by professionally certified school library media specialists, with instruction in information literacy and proper research techniques. Students leave UPK-12 instruction unprepared to succeed at the college level because they lack research, reference, and writing skills.
- While secondary schools are subject to Commissioner's Education Regulations, many districts disregard these regs, and some school systems seek waivers from these provisions – NYCDOE, for example. Providing instruction in these crucial skills is completely discretionary in elementary schools. This creates tremendous inequality based on local economic conditions.

#### **Impact:**

- Failure to guarantee instruction in information literacy ensures New York's high school graduates will continue to be burdened with increasing college debt, enter their college careers unprepared for the rigors of undergraduate coursework, and leave them particularly vulnerable to financial exploitation from misleading and "fake" sources of information.

### **Taxpayer Access to Publicly-Funded Research**

#### **Background:**

- New York State spends millions of taxpayer dollars each year to fund critical research initiatives. Despite this considerable state funding, when the taxpayer-funded research is published in academic journals, private for-profit companies deny access to this information.
- This legislation requires that New York State taxpayer-funded research be made available online by the state agencies that underwrite the research. This bill would bring NYS in line with the federal standards employed by the National Institute of Health, and the State of California.

#### **Impact:**

- This bill would eliminate an area of double taxation by making taxpayer-funded scholarly research available after one year.

### **Equitable Access to DASNY Financing for Public Libraries**

[S.5303 Ritchie](#) / no same as

#### **Background:**

- This legislation would make all public libraries eligible for low-cost financing through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York. Currently, any library seeking desperately-needed financing for capital improvements must be individually approved in law.

#### **Impact:**

- This legislation would remove an antiquated and cumbersome roadblock for libraries in need of timely renovations, and ensure local taxpayers have access to DASNY's expertise and low-cost services.