

BILL NUMBER: S8410/A10465

SPONSOR: MAYER/RYAN

TITLE OF BILL:

An act to amend the education law, in relation to state aid for library construction; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

This bill provides public libraries with an additional 12 months to complete capital projects where such projects commenced between July 1, 2017 and July 1, 2019 and libraries were unable to complete projects within the three-year statutory time limit due to COVID-19.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

Section 1 provides that public libraries that received library construction grant funds for projects that commenced July 1, 2017 through July 1, 2020 and are unable to complete their project due to the state disaster emergency declared due to the novel coronavirus(COVID-19) shall be provided an additional twelve months from the statutory project end date to complete such project.

Section 2 provides the effective date.

JUSTIFICATION:

On March 7, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo declared a state of emergency pursuant to Executive Order 202 due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Subsequent Executive Orders established New York State on PAUSE, which closed all non-essential business statewide including construction deemed nonessential. Under section 273-a of education law, aid under the library construction grant program shall be approved on expenses in a period from July 1 to June 30 for up to 3 years or until the project is completed, whichever occurs first. Due to the restrictions on construction, many libraries feel they will no longer be able to meet the June 30th deadline, and therefore will not be able to receive the funding they counted on when they began their project. This legislation will ensure libraries have the additional time they need to complete their project.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

New bill.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

No additional cost to the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This act shall take effect immediately and be deemed repealed July 1, 2023.