



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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Position: Support
Bill Number(s): S8410 (Mayer) / A10465 (Ryan)
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The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation and urges its immediate enactment.

Libraries are eligible to receive funding for construction projects through the state's Library Construction Aid Program, overseen by the Division of Library Development. The program runs on a three-year implementation term.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, libraries have been unable continue construction or complete projects. For libraries with projects that were awarded as part of the FY2017-18 budget, their completion date of June 30, 2020 is looming. At present, nearly three dozen libraries have outstanding projects "due" at the end of the month – totaling nearly \$8 million. Furthermore, projects which began in FY2018-19 and FY2019-20 face similar issues as they undergo construction delays due to executive orders and necessary closures.

By extending the implementation term an additional 12 months, this legislation would allow libraries with active projects under the New York Library Construction Aid Program, to complete their projects as intended. It is important to note, that to do otherwise, would penalize libraries for complying with mandatory statewide orders.

For these reasons, NYLA strongly supports the above referenced legislation and urges its immediate enactment. For addition information, please contact Briana McNamee, Director of Government Relations & Advocacy at 518-432-6952.