



S2890B (May)/ A5837B (Jean-Pierre)

An act to amend the general business law, in relation to requiring publishers to offer licenses for electronic books to libraries under reasonable terms

The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation.

If enacted, this bill would require that publishers who offer electronic books to the private market, also extend licenses to libraries within the State, without discrimination. Contracts would stipulate “reasonable terms” that would allow libraries across the state, and their patrons, to have equitable access to the content they seek.

Publishers have enacted a pricing model specifically for libraries that have resulted in exorbitant costs, contract limitations and most recently, an embargo. The embargo is an eight-week period during which the publishers prohibit libraries from purchasing titles deemed as high-demand. This restriction directly affects our citizens, especially those who are most vulnerable. Moreover, these restrictions financially burden our libraries.

Libraries provide equitable access to information for all. Many New Yorkers prefer digital content and libraries provide this content as a benefit to their communities. E-books are particularly useful for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and others for whom digital content is more accessible and manageable. This bill would standardize industry practices and ensure that all New Yorker’s have access to the content they seek in the format they desire.

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