



### **S4435B (May) / A6121B (Jean-Pierre)**

*An act to amend the education law, in relation to requiring members of a board of trustees of public, free association and Indian libraries to complete two hours of trustee education annually*

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

If enacted, this bill would require that individuals serving on a public or association library board of trustees complete a minimum of two hours trustee education per year. The curriculum would be offered through different platforms such as in-person workshops, live or self-paced online lectures or state or national conference programs. Subjects discussed in annual training would address budget development, human resources, strategic planning and, other relevant topics to the community.

Reflective of our State, libraries are as diverse as the unique communities they service. From urban libraries serving millions of people with budgets over \$100 million, to rural libraries serving small, geographically isolated communities with budgets less than \$10,000; those accepting the role of library trustee are responsible for a cumulative \$1.6 billion in public and private income.

There are currently more than 6,200 library trustees in New York State who serve in one of the nearly 760 local libraries, representing 1,100 facilities. Each year, hundreds of individuals are elected or appointed as new trustees. Remarkably, there is no required, comprehensive State-approved education or training programs for library trustees in New York State.

Library governance grows increasingly more complex every year. To understand and provide effective oversight of their libraries, board members must be informed of their mandated duties and responsibilities, and be afforded the training necessary to be good financial stewards.

For additional information, please contact Briana McNamee at the New York Library Association at 518.432.6952.