



*The Voice of the Library Community*

**New York Library Association**

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## **S5753A (Ryan) / A7060A (Jean-Pierre)**

*An act to amend the education law, in relation to increasing the percentage of total funds appropriated to a library system that may be used to support projects receiving state aid in excess of seventy-five percent*

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

New York State currently has 756 public libraries with nearly 1,100 facilities. As of 2021, the need for new construction, expansion and renovation of these facilities is estimated at \$1.5 billion. This is largely due to age and deteriorating conditions; over half of all public library buildings in the State are over 60 years old, and another 33% are between 30 and 60 years old.

The New York State Library Construction Aid Program was established over fourteen years ago to address the infrastructure needs of our library community. Over the last decade, over 800 public libraries and library system completed nearly 3,000 construction and renovation projects. While some projects are large, such as a new annex, often, construction aid is used for minor renovations that will greatly improve patron experience.

Current requirements pose as an obstacle to many libraries due to their financial capacity. Frequently, these libraries are located in rural areas of New York State. If enacted, this bill would allow library systems, who are responsible for distributing the Program funds to their libraries, greater flexibility.

The library community could greatly benefit if they were provided increased access to funding under the Library Construction Aid Program.

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