



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Bill Number & Sponsor: S7285 (May) / A9551 (Ryan)

Purpose: 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 continuing education.

If enacted, this bill would require that individuals serving on a public or association library board of trustees complete a minimum of two hours of continuing education credits 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. Training will address subjects such as budget development, human resources and strategic planning.

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.

As of 2018, there were more than 6,200 library trustees in New York State who serve in one of the nearly 760 local libraries, representing 1,1000 facilities. Amongst those were 880 brand 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, be afforded the training necessary to be good financial stewards.

For these reasons, NYLA strongly supports the above referenced legislation and urges your approval. For additional information, please contact the New York Library Association at 518.432.6952.