



# New York State Senate Standing Committee on Libraries

## Senator Sean M. Ryan

Chair



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Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
President Pro Tempore  
NYS Senate Majority Leader



**CHAIR**

Libraries

**COMMITTEES**

Commerce, Economic Development  
and Small Business  
Education  
Health  
Housing, Construction and  
Community Development  
Labor

**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR  
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December 16, 2022

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Temporary President and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Libraries for the 2022 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction. During the 2022 session, this committee met two times in session and reported four bills.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that was done in the committee this year, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the committee's operations.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Ryan

Senator, 60th District



**2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES**

**Senator Ryan, Chairperson**

Committee Members

Majority Members Senator Jabari Brisport Senator John E. Brooks Senator Brad Hoylman Senator José M. Serrano	Minority Members Senator Daphne Jordan, <i>Ranking Member</i> Senator Daniel G. Stec
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Committee Staff

Cody Meyers, Chief of Staff  
Alexandra Grose, Counsel and Policy Director  
Sarah Lesser, Legislative Director  
Gabrielle Harrington, Director of Community Affairs and Policy Advisor



## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Libraries has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning public, academic, school and special libraries as well as the administration and funding of libraries and library systems across New York State. The Committee has endeavored to assist libraries in sustaining and upgrading their infrastructure, as well as meeting the challenges of the information age. Libraries have become modern community centers playing an integral part in the education and cultural development of New Yorkers.

New York State is home to a total of 72 library systems: 23 public library systems, nine reference and research library systems, and 40 school library systems. There are 755 public libraries statewide. Six of the 40 largest libraries in the United States are in New York, more than any other state. New York's largest library, the New York Public Library, contains over 10 million volumes and is among the top research institutions in the world. Statewide, over 19 million people utilize New York State's public library systems. From the largest library to the smallest community-based book exchange, all of New York's libraries play a vital role in our communities.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, fourteen bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, four were reported from the Committee. One was passed by the Senate, and three passed in both houses. This work was conducted through two committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

## **COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS**

During the 2022 Session, the Libraries Committee held two meetings. One of the bills passed by the Committee will increase state funding to libraries, S.8429 (Ryan), which was signed by the Governor. Bill S.8429 extends the deadline for eligibility for state aid for library construction to compensate for delays in project completion due to supply chain issues.

Another bill that was signed by the Governor is S.7611 (Gaughran). Bill S.7611 changes the filing date for petitions to thirty days prior to election for budget and trustee positions at the Gold Coast Library.

The third bill that passed both houses, S.7857 (Skoufis), was vetoed by the Governor. This bill would have directed the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance to study and make recommendations regarding the frequency of residents who are being assessed library taxes for more than one library.



## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2022, three of the fourteen bills referred to the Standing Committee on Libraries passed both houses of the Legislature. The Governor has signed two of these bills.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
S7611	<b>GAUGHRAN --</b>	Requires that notice be provided and petitions be filed 30 days prior to an election for trustee and budget positions for the Gold Coast Library	SIGNED, CHAPTER #324
S7857	<b>SKOUFIS --</b>	Directs the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance to study and make recommendations regarding the frequency of residents who are being assessed library taxes for more than one library	VETOED, MEMO #63
S8429	<b>RYAN --</b>	Amends sections of the Education law related to state aid eligibility for library construction, and extends the eligibility period from 4 years to 6 years	SIGNED, CHAPTER #333

**SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY**

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S7611	<b>GAUGHRAN --</b>	Requires that notice be provided and petitions be filed 30 days prior to an election for trustee and budget positions for the Gold Coast Library	Signed, Chapter #324
S7857	<b>SKOUFIS --</b>	Directs the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance to study and make recommendations regarding the frequency of residents who are being assessed library taxes for more than one library	Vetoed, Memo #63
S8429	<b>RYAN --</b>	Amends sections of the Education law related to state aid eligibility for library construction, and extends the eligibility period from 4 years to 6 years	Signed, Chapter #333
S9342	<b>RYAN --</b>	Extends for 3 years the provisions of the public library construction grant program which raised the possible portion of a project the state would pay to 75% of the total project cost	Passed Senate





Annual Report 2022

**New York State Senate**  
**Standing Committee on Libraries**