



## NJLA Public Policy Committee

### 2022-23 Legislative Priorities

#### State Legislation

- **Per Capita State Aid – (A3267) (S3587 – last year’s bill#) *Top Priority***
  - FY 2023 Budget Request is **\$10,600,000**. In FY 2022 NJ Libraries received \$4,629,240, a 56% shortfall in funding.

#### State Legislation we are following:

- **Disposal of Materials Legislations [A1180/S2644](#)**
  - Allows public libraries to dispose of certain materials without advertising for bids.

Assembly sponsors: [Zwicker, Andrew](#) as Primary Sponsor

Senate Sponsors: [Bateman, Christopher](#) as Primary Sponsor

[Beach, James](#) as Primary Sponsor

6/30/2020 Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee

10/19/2020 Reported from Senate Committee, 2nd Reading

1/11/2021 Passed by the Senate (34-0)

1/12/2021 Received in the Assembly, Referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee

3/17/2021 Reported out of Assembly Committee, 2nd Reading

12/9/2021 Recommitted to Assembly State and Local Government Committee

## **Additional Priorities that PPC Supports**

### **Library Network Aid (no new bill number)**

- Provides funding for shared resources through deliveries across the state's libraries. This funding also supports the technologies that power library statewide resource sharing. In addition, funding from this appropriation is dedicated to the State Library Resource Center in Trenton. We are requesting an increase in the FY23 appropriation, to restore this funding bill to where it was, prior to the cuts made to the bill in 2010.

### **Digital Equity Grant**

\$25 million, from the State of New Jersey's ARPA funds, to equip New Jersey's libraries as conduits for building a digitally inclusive New Jersey. There are more than 400 public library buildings in New Jersey, accessible to all New Jersey residents.

To provide true digital equity, we must make sure that all residents of New Jersey (no matter their age), have access to the technology, connectivity and training that is imperative today for basic life's needs. With funding, New Jersey's libraries stand ready to expand our efforts in bridging widening inequities in broadband access, connectivity, digital literacy, and access to technology devices.

### **Strategies for Broadband Funding (A850)**

We are enthused that a NJ library representative is included in the Broadband Access Study Commission. We assert that NJ's libraries are best equipped to implement the Community Broadband model. The State of New Jersey can build upon existing infrastructure in libraries, without reinventing the wheel. This is the most efficient, effective, and cost savings strategy for achieving Broadband Access for all New Jersey residents.

Libraries are community anchors, and we serve as conduits to the actualization of individual and community hopes and aspirations. We are there 24/7, through digital and physical resources, helping New Jersey residents to improve the quality of their lives. New Jersey's libraries are imperative to building a vibrant and thriving New Jersey, with equitable access to life resources for all our residents.

The Digital Equity and Broadband subcommittee continues to explore opportunities for funding.

### **A Permanent Library Construction Fund Bill**

Based on the surveys conducted for the New Jersey Construction Bond Act and new post-Covid facility safety expectations, it is clear that there is

a critical need for funding to repair, renovate, and expand public library infrastructure. The establishment of an annual budgeted fund would provide the necessary capital to provide for a healthy and robust library environment in New Jersey.

The Permanent Library Construction subcommittee is currently researching and developing a plan.

### **School Library Priorities**

[A248](#) / [S3464](#) (**Information Literacy- click on the Bill for details**)

**Assembly Sponsors:** Assemblymen Daniel Benson and Wayne DeAngelo (LD 14) **Mila Jasey (LD 27) - Education Committee, Vice Chair, Higher Education**

**Co-Sponsors:** Asw. Sumter (LD35), Asw. Carol Murphy (LD 7), Asm. Robert Karabinchak (LD18), **Asm Erik Simonsen (LD1) - Education Committee**, Asm Antwan McClellan (LD1), Asw Britnee Timberlake (LD 34), Asw Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (LD15), Asm Thomas Giblin (LD34), Asm John DiMaio (LD23), Asw Jean Stanfield (LD8), Asw Annette Chaparro (LD33)

**Referred to Assembly Education Committee**

**Senate Sponsors:** Senator Michael Testa (LD1),

**Co-Sponsors:** Senator Vin Gopal (LD11), Senator Anthony Bucco (LD25), Senator Robert Singer, (LD30), Senator Thomas Kean (LD21), Senator Holly Schepisi (LD39)

**Hearing was held in Senate Education Committee and bill was moved out of committee.**

[A5782](#) / [S1586](#) ( **Requires ratio of SLMS to students - Click on the Bill for details**)

**Assembly Primary Sponsor:** Aswm Shavoda E. Sumter (LD#35), Aswm Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (LD15)

**Assembly Co-Sponsors:** Asm Thomas Giblin (LD34)

**Senate Sponsors - Senate:** **Jim Beach (LD6) - Education Committee**, Linda Greenstein (14), **Co-Sponsors:** **Shirley Turner (15) Education Committee**,

Anthony Bucco (LD25), Robert Singer (LD30), Thomas Kean (LD21), Senator Holly Schepisi (LD39)

**Both bills have been referred to the the respective Education Committee**

### **eBook Legislation**

The committee is following legislation in Maryland and New York as well as other legal actions.