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I N S E N A T E

April 14, 2014

Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cities

AN ACT to amend chapter 164 of the laws of 1907 relating to the incorporation of the Queens Borough Public Library, in relation to the membership and duties of the board of trustees and the oversight of the executive director and key library executive personnel; to amend the New York City Charter, in relation to public libraries; and to amend the public officers law, in relation to the definition of agency

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 1 of chapter 164 of the laws of 1907 relating to
2 the incorporation of the Queens Borough Public Library, as amended by
3 chapter 495 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 1. A. The following persons, to wit: The mayor, comptroller
5 and president of the city council of the city of New York and the presi-
6 dent of the borough of Queens, by virtue of their offices, and fifteen
7 additional persons who, at the date of the passage of this act, shall
8 constitute the board of trustees of the "Queens Borough Library," a
9 corporation incorporated by the regents of the university of the state
10 of New York on March nineteen, eighteen hundred [and] ninety-six, as
11 amended December twenty-one, eighteen hundred [and] ninety-nine, under
12 the provisions of the laws of eighteen hundred [and] ninety-two, chapter
13 three hundred [and] seventy-eight, as amended by the laws of eighteen
14 hundred [and] ninety-five, chapter eight hundred [and] fifty-nine, are
15 hereby constituted a body politic and corporate under and by the name of
16 "The Queens Borough Public Library," for the purpose of constructing and
17 maintaining libraries and a free public library system in the borough of
18 Queens in the city of New York.

19 B. ON JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN, A NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES
20 SHALL BE NAMED, PROVIDED THAT ON OR AFTER SUCH DATE, THE NUMBER OF TRUS-
21 TEES SHALL BE REDUCED TO ELEVEN.

22 S 2. Section 3 of chapter 164 of the laws of 1907 relating to the
23 incorporation of the Queens Borough Public Library, as amended by chap-
24 ter 561 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:

25 S 3. The corporation shall organize by the adoption of by-laws and the
26 election of officers. The by-laws shall provide for the terms of office
27 of the trustees of the corporation, not to exceed the period of five

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 years, PROVIDED, THAT TRUSTEES APPOINTED ON OR AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO
2 THOUSAND FIFTEEN SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS, excepting
3 that the mayor, comptroller, public advocate and speaker of the city
4 council of the city of New York and the president of the borough of
5 Queens, shall at all times be members of the board ex-officio AND SUCH
6 EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS MAY DESIGNATE A REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE EX-OFFICIO IN
7 HIS OR HER PLACE. The trustees shall hereafter be chosen and vacancies
8 occurring in such office filled by an appointment which shall alternate
9 between the mayor of the city of New York and the president of the
10 [Borough] BOROUGH of Queens SUCH THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF
11 QUEENS SHALL APPOINT SIX TRUSTEES AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
12 SHALL APPOINT FIVE TRUSTEES; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT TRUSTEES MUST BE
13 EITHER A RESIDENT OF QUEENS OR OWN OR OPERATE A BUSINESS IN QUEENS; AND
14 PROVIDED FURTHER THAT AT LEAST ONE TRUSTEE MUST BE A CERTIFIED PUBLIC
15 ACCOUNTANT, ONE TRUSTEE MUST BE A DISTRICT MANAGER OF ONE OF THE COMMU-
16 NITY BOARDS IN THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS, ONE TRUSTEE MUST BE A CHAIR OF ONE
17 OF THE COMMUNITY BOARDS IN THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS, AND TWO TRUSTEES MUST
18 BE PERSONS WHO HOLD A MASTER'S DEGREE IN LIBRARY SCIENCE OR LIBRARY AND
19 INFORMATION STUDIES FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY PROGRAM;
20 AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT THE APPOINTING PARTIES SHALL NOTIFY THE OTHER
21 APPOINTING PARTY OF WHO WAS APPOINTED. THE APPOINTING PARTIES SHALL BE
22 AUTHORIZED TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REMOVAL OF A TRUSTEE
23 WHOM SUCH PARTY APPOINTED IF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BY-LAWS ADOPTED BY
24 THE CORPORATION, THERE IS REASONABLE CAUSE FOR SUCH REMOVAL. HOWEVER,
25 SUCH RECOMMENDATION MUST BE AGREED UPON BY THE OTHER APPOINTING PARTY
26 PRIOR TO ANY ACTION BEING TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THE BOARD OF
27 TRUSTEES MAY RECOMMEND REMOVAL OF A TRUSTEE, IF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
28 BY-LAWS ADOPTED BY THE CORPORATION, THERE IS REASONABLE CAUSE FOR SUCH
29 REMOVAL. WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER A RECOMMENDATION FOR REMOVAL OF A TRUS-
30 TEE IS MADE BY THE BOARD OR AN AGREED UPON RECOMMENDATION FOR REMOVAL BY
31 THE APPOINTING PARTIES IS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD, THE TRUSTEE SUBJECT TO
32 A RECOMMENDATION OF REMOVAL SHALL BE GIVEN NOTICE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO
33 APPEAL THE RECOMMENDATION FOR REMOVAL IN WRITING TO THE BOARD OF TRUS-
34 TEES WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF RECEIPT OF SUCH NOTICE. THE BOARD SHALL CONSID-
35 ER THE WRITTEN APPEAL AND MAKE A FINAL DECISION WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF
36 RECEIPT OF SUCH APPEAL AND PRIOR TO ANY FINAL ACTION BY THE BOARD ON ITS
37 OWN RECOMMENDATION FOR REMOVAL OR THE AGREED UPON RECOMMENDATION FOR
38 REMOVAL BY THE APPOINTING PARTIES. The corporation shall have power
39 from time to time to make such rules and regulations as the trustees
40 thereof shall judge proper for the accomplishment of the objects of the
41 corporation, for the election of officers, for prescribing their respec-
42 tive functions and the mode of discharging the same, for imposing and
43 collecting dues, fines and contributions, for regulating the times and
44 places of meetings, and generally for the management and direction of
45 the affairs and concerns of the said corporation. The trustees shall
46 have absolute control of the expenditure of all moneys appropriated by
47 the city of New York for the maintenance of libraries conducted, or to
48 be conducted by the corporation in the borough of Queens, and shall have
49 the power to appoint and fix the salaries of such officers and employees
50 as they shall deem necessary, who, unless employed under special
51 contract, shall hold their offices during the pleasure of the trustees,
52 but no trustee shall receive compensation as such, and the authority of
53 the trustees to so make and regulate expenditures for maintenance, and
54 their right to select, employ, fix salaries and discharge employees,
55 shall be absolute under this act, any acts of the legislature of the
56 state of New York to the contrary notwithstanding.

1 S 3. Chapter 164 of the laws of 1907 relating to the incorporation of
2 the Queens Borough Public Library is amended by adding four new sections
3 3-a, 4-a, 9-b, and 9-c to read as follows:

4 S 3-A. A. THE TRUSTEES SHALL HOLD ANNUAL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARINGS,
5 PROVIDE A THIRTY DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF THE
6 BUDGET AND SHALL REPORT ALL REVENUE SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR THE BUDGET,
7 BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.

8 B. THE TESTIMONY PRESENTED AT SUCH PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING MAY BE
9 PRESENTED IN WRITING OR ORALLY, PROVIDED THAT THE TRUSTEES MAY MAKE
10 RULES DESIGNED TO EXCLUDE REPETITIVE, REDUNDANT OR IRRELEVANT TESTIMONY.
11 THE TRUSTEES SHALL MAKE A RECORD OF ALL TESTIMONY AT THE PUBLIC BUDGET
12 HEARINGS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION "PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING" MEANS A
13 PUBLIC FORUM AT A PHYSICAL LOCATION, ATTENDED BY TRUSTEES AND THE
14 LIBRARY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR THEIR DESIGNEES, WHERE ORAL TESTIMONY IS
15 ACCEPTED AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY MAY BE SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE
16 RECORD. SUCH FORUM SHALL BE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR THE PRESENTA-
17 TION OF COMMENTS. SUCH HEARING SHALL BE COMMENCED UPON PROPER NOTICE TO
18 THE PUBLIC AT LEAST THIRTY DAYS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED HEARING DATE.
19 NOTICE OF THE PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING SHALL BE PROVIDED ON THE LIBRARY'S
20 WEBSITE, ON FLIERS POSTED INSIDE THE LIBRARY'S MAIN LOCATION AND IN EACH
21 OF ITS BRANCH LOCATIONS, AND IN ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVE MANNER CHOSEN BY
22 THE TRUSTEES.

23 S 4-A. A. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND KEY LIBRARY EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL
24 SHALL COMPLY WITH FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS WHEN PUBLIC MONEY IS
25 USED TO FUND STAFF SALARIES. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "PUBLIC
26 MONEY" SHALL MEAN MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR STATE OR COUNTY
27 OR A TOWN, VILLAGE, OR CITY. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL ADOPT BY-LAWS
28 REQUIRING MANDATORY ANNUAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES FROM THE EXECUTIVE
29 DIRECTOR AND OTHER KEY LIBRARY EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL THAT SHALL BE
30 REPORTED TO THE NEW YORK CITY CONFLICT OF INTEREST BOARD AS SET FORTH IN
31 CLAUSE 7 OF SUBPARAGRAPH A OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF SUBDIVISION B OF SECTION
32 12-110 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

33 B. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL ADOPT BY-LAWS LIMITING THE TYPE AND
34 EXTENT OF EMPLOYMENT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ANY KEY LIBRARY EXECU-
35 TIVE PERSONNEL MAY ENGAGE IN OTHER THAN HIS OR HER EMPLOYMENT WITH THE
36 LIBRARY AND SHALL PROHIBIT OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR ANY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
37 AND ANY KEY LIBRARY EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL WHO RECEIVES A STAFF SALARY IN
38 EXCESS OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. SUCH BY-LAWS SHALL REQUIRE
39 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE KEY LIBRARY EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL TO REPORT
40 ANY EMPLOYMENT OTHER THAN HIS OR HER EMPLOYMENT WITH THE LIBRARY TO THE
41 BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SHALL REQUIRE THE BOARD TO APPROVE SUCH EMPLOY-
42 MENT.

43 C. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL ADOPT BY-LAWS REGARDING THE APPROVAL
44 FOR HIRING AND ESTABLISHING POLICIES FOR THE COMPENSATION OF KEY LIBRARY
45 EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL.

46 S 9-B. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL APPOINT:

47 A. AN AUDIT COMMITTEE WHICH SHALL OVERSEE THE LIBRARY'S ACCOUNTING AND
48 FINANCIAL REPORTING PROCESSES AND ANNUAL AUDITS. THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
49 SHALL RETAIN AN AUDITOR, REVIEW THE SCOPE AND PLANNING OF ALL AUDITS
50 WITH THE AUDITOR AND REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE RESULTS. THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
51 SHALL CONSIDER THE AUDITOR'S PERFORMANCE AND INDEPENDENCE AND REPORT
52 ANNUALLY ON THE AUDITOR'S ACTIVITIES TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES; ALL ANNU-
53 AL AUDITS SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN A REPORT AND MADE AVAILABLE ON THE
54 LIBRARY WEBSITE;

55 B. AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH SHALL BE COMPRISED OF A REPRESENTATIVE
56 CROSS-SECTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL

1 ABOLISH THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE AND ANY ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OR
2 DUTIES OF SUCH COMMITTEE SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMIT-
3 TEE; AND

4 C. A LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS LABOR ISSUES AND OVERSEE THE
5 CONTRACTING OUT OF SERVICES.

6 S 9-C. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL ESTABLISH BY-LAWS PROHIBITING A
7 PERSON WITH A CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM PARTICIPATING IN ANY DELIBER-
8 ATIONS OR VOTING ON THE MATTER GIVING RISE TO THE CONFLICT. THE BY-LAWS
9 SHALL ALSO PROHIBIT THE PERSON WITH THE CONFLICT FROM IMPROPERLY INFLU-
10 ENCING THE DELIBERATION OR VOTING ON SUCH MATTER. ANY CONFLICTS OF
11 INTEREST BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR THE AUDIT
12 COMMITTEE AND SHALL BE DOCUMENTED IN THE MINUTES OF ANY MEETING AT WHICH
13 SUCH CONFLICT WAS DISCUSSED.

14 S 4. The board of trustees of the Queens Borough Public Library shall
15 engage an outside consultant with the requisite expertise to conduct and
16 complete a comprehensive executive compensation study within ninety days
17 of the date this act shall have become a law. Such study shall include,
18 but not be limited to, a review of acceptable fringe benefits, including
19 car allowances and tuition reimbursements.

20 S 5. Subdivision 2 of section 2601 of the New York City Charter, as
21 added by a vote of the people of the city of New York at the general
22 election held in November of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

23 2. "Agency" means a city, county, borough or other office, position,
24 administration, department, division, bureau, board, commission, author-
25 ity, corporation, advisory committee or other agency of government, the
26 expenses of which are paid in whole or in part from the city treasury,
27 and shall include but not be limited to, the council, the offices of
28 each elected official, the board of education, community school boards,
29 community boards, the financial services corporation, the health and
30 hospitals corporation, the public development corporation, and the New
31 York city housing authority, but shall not include any court or any
32 corporation or institution maintaining or operating a [public library,]
33 museum, botanical garden, arboretum, tomb, memorial building, aquarium,
34 zoological garden or similar facility.

35 S 6. Subdivision 19 of section 2601 of the New York City Charter, as
36 added by a vote of the people of the city of New York at the general
37 election held in November of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

38 19. "Public servant" means all officials, officers and employees of
39 the city, including members of community boards [and], members of advi-
40 sory committees, except unpaid members of advisory committees [shall not
41 be public servants], AND ALL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND KEY LIBRARY EXECU-
42 TIVE PERSONNEL FROM THE QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY, THE BROOKLYN
43 PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

44 S 7. Subdivision 3 of section 86 of the public officers law, as added
45 by chapter 933 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:

46 3. "Agency" means:

47 A. any state or municipal department, board, bureau, division, commis-
48 sion, committee, public authority, public corporation, council, office
49 or other governmental entity performing a governmental or proprietary
50 function for the state or any one or more municipalities thereof, except
51 the judiciary or the state legislature[.]; AND

52 B. THE QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY, THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND
53 THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

54 S 8. This act shall take effect immediately.