

STATE OF NEW YORK

2670

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 22, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to maintaining school libraries

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 274-a
2 to read as follows:

3 § 274-a. School libraries. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of
4 law to the contrary and subject to the provisions of subdivision two of
5 this section, each school district shall maintain a school library in
6 each elementary and secondary school in the district, and shall employ a
7 certified school library media specialist for each such school library,
8 in accordance with regulations prescribed by the commissioner, within
9 three years of the effective date of this section.

10 2. The commissioner may, upon application by a school district, waive
11 the applicability of the provisions of subdivision one of this section
12 to such school district upon a determination by the commissioner that
13 the school district is within a designated shortage area for library
14 media specialists or that such school district's needs are adequately
15 met through a written sharing arrangement with a public library and such
16 arrangement provides for adequate library access.

17 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding
18 the date on which it shall have become a law.

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

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