

S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6959--A

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 17, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. BRODSKY, TITONE, REILLY, SPANO, HYER-SPENCER, JAFFEE, ZEBROWSKI, KOON, MAYERSOHN, MILLMAN -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. MCENENY, NOLAN, RAIA, SCHIMEL, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Tourism, Arts and Sports Development -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the deaccessioning of property by collecting institutions; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds and
2 determines that the state of New York has the finest collecting insti-
3 tutions in the world, giving the people of the state and visitors an
4 unequalled opportunity to experience the world's cultural, artistic,
5 historical, natural history and scientific heritage. These collecting
6 institutions exist across the state, range in size from the smallest to
7 the largest institutions in the world, and are all creatures of state
8 government. Some are directly chartered by the legislature, and some by
9 the board of regents, but all are subject to the public interest as set
10 forth in law, regulation, charter requirement, and sound collecting
11 institution practice as also set forth by collecting institutions asso-
12 ciations and accreditation organizations. This legislation is intended
13 to assure and enhance the continuing interest of collecting institutions
14 in abiding by and protecting the public interest.
15 The legislature further finds and determines that there is a need for
16 clarification and standards with respect to the ways collecting insti-
17 tutions acquire, hold, and dispose of property, especially property that
18 is part of their collections. The need for such improvement in state
19 policy and practice is a long-standing concern, and has been highlighted

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

LBD10608-08-9

1 by the recent and widely discussed increase in financial pressure on
2 cultural institutions. The legislature notes attempts in New York and
3 elsewhere to monetize collections and the asserted use of those monies
4 for purposes other than the protection and expansion of collections. The
5 legislature further finds and determines that such practices are incon-
6 sistent with the interest of the people of the state, are inconsistent
7 with requirements of governing documents, accreditation standards, and
8 accepted collecting institution practices, and, if unchecked, will
9 permanently endanger the integrity and existence of collecting institu-
10 tion collections handed to us by earlier generations as a sacred,
11 cultural, ethical, and public trust.

12 The legislature therefore finds and declares that the requirements of
13 this law are necessary to protect the cultural, artistic, historical,
14 and scientific heritage of the state, and the public interest, are
15 consistent with long-standing professional standards set forth by the
16 collecting institution community, and are consistent with the statutory
17 and constitutional responsibilities of the legislature and the board of
18 regents.

19 S 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 233-aaa to
20 read as follows:

21 S 233-AAA. ACCESSION AND DEACCESSION OF PROPERTY. 1. FOR THE PURPOSES
22 OF THIS ARTICLE THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

23 (A) "COLLECTING INSTITUTION" MEANS A MUSEUM OR OTHER CULTURAL OR
24 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT IS OPERATED BY A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY,
25 EDUCATION CORPORATION, NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION OR CHARITABLE TRUST
26 AND OWNS OR HOLDS COLLECTIONS, OR HAS COLLECTING AS A STATED PURPOSE IN
27 ITS CHARTER, CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OR OTHER ORGANIZING DOCUMENTS,
28 OR INTENDS TO OWN OR HOLD COLLECTIONS.

29 (B) "ACCESSIONING" MEANS THE PLACEMENT OF AN ITEM INTO A COLLECTING
30 INSTITUTION'S COLLECTION AND ON ITS COLLECTION REGISTER FOLLOWING PROCE-
31 DURES THAT ARE SET FORTH IN THE COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S COLLECTION
32 MANAGEMENT POLICY AND MISSION STATEMENT.

33 (C) "DEACCESSIONING" MEANS THE REMOVAL OF AN ITEM FROM A COLLECTING
34 INSTITUTION'S COLLECTION AND ITS COLLECTION REGISTER FOLLOWING PROCE-
35 DURES THAT ARE SET FORTH IN THE COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S COLLECTION
36 MANAGEMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH ITS MISSION STATEMENT.

37 (D) "DISPOSAL" MEANS THE REMOVAL OF AN ITEM FROM A COLLECTING INSTI-
38 TUTION'S OWNERSHIP BY MEANS OF ITS SALE, DESTRUCTION, TRANSFER, LEASE,
39 GIFT OR ANY OTHER MEANS.

40 (E) "MISSION STATEMENT" MEANS A STATEMENT APPROVED BY THE COLLECTING
41 INSTITUTION'S GOVERNING BODY, WHICH IS MODELED ON, DERIVED FROM AND
42 CONSISTENT WITH THE COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S CORPORATE PURPOSES AS SET
43 FORTH IN ITS CHARTER, CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OR OTHER ORGANIZING
44 DOCUMENT THAT IDENTIFIES ITS PURPOSES, BENEFITS, ACTIVITIES AND PRAC-
45 TICES.

46 (F) "COLLECTION MANAGEMENT POLICY" MEANS A STATEMENT APPROVED BY THE
47 COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S GOVERNING BODY AND ADMINISTERED BY ITS BOARD,
48 OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AND CONSULTANTS WHICH INCLUDES ALL POLICIES AND
49 PRACTICES RELATED TO THE PRESERVATION, ACCESSIBILITY, AND USE OF THE
50 COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S COLLECTIONS AND ASSOCIATED DATA, INCLUDING LOAN
51 MANAGEMENT, COLLECTION GROWTH AND REFINEMENT; DISCHARGE OF THE PUBLIC
52 TRUST WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIONS; METHODS OF ACCESSIONING, DEACCESSION-
53 ING, AND DISPOSAL; PLANNING AND ESTABLISHING COLLECTION PRIORITIES;
54 OBTAINING, ALLOCATING, AND MANAGING RESOURCES, COORDINATING COLLECTION
55 PROCESSES WITH THE NEEDS OF CURATION, PRESERVATION, COLLECTION USE; AND

1 A PUBLIC REGISTER OF ACCESSIONED ITEMS, WHICH IS MODELED ON, DERIVED
2 FROM AND CONSISTENT WITH THE COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S MISSION STATEMENT.

3 (G) "COLLECTION" MEANS THE TANGIBLE OR INTANGIBLE THINGS OWNED AND
4 ACCESSIONED BY A COLLECTING INSTITUTION, INCLUDING THINGS THAT ARE
5 GENERATED BY VIDEO, COMPUTER OR SIMILAR MEANS OF PROJECTION AND DISPLAY,
6 INCLUDING CONCEPTS, THAT HAVE INTRINSIC HISTORICAL, ARTISTIC, CULTURAL,
7 SCIENTIFIC, NATURAL HISTORY OR OTHER VALUE.

8 (H) "ITEM" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL ELEMENT OF A COLLECTION.

9 (I) "REFINEMENT" MEANS CHANGING THE ITEMS IN A COLLECTING INSTI-
10 TUTION'S COLLECTION IN ORDER TO FULFILL ITS MISSION STATEMENT AND
11 COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT POLICY.

12 2. EACH COLLECTING INSTITUTION SHALL DEVELOP, ADOPT AND PUBLISH A
13 COLLECTION MANAGEMENT POLICY AND A MISSION STATEMENT. EACH COLLECTING
14 INSTITUTION SHALL BE BOUND BY ITS COLLECTION MANAGEMENT POLICY AND ITS
15 MISSION STATEMENT.

16 3. A COLLECTING INSTITUTION MUST ACCESSION ALL ITEMS IN ITS POSSESSION
17 THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH ITS MISSION STATEMENT AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT
18 POLICY.

19 4. EACH COLLECTING INSTITUTION SHALL PUBLISH A REGISTER OF ITEMS IN
20 ITS COLLECTION. SUCH REGISTER SHALL BE PUBLISHED WITHIN THREE YEARS OF
21 THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION. THE BOARD OF REGENTS MAY EXTEND THE
22 DEADLINE AFTER GOOD CAUSE HAS BEEN SHOWN. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING,
23 AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, ALL COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS
24 SHALL PUBLISH A REGISTER OF NEWLY ACCESSIONED OR DEACCESSIONED ITEMS.
25 ANY REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE REGENTS SHALL INCLUDE REASONABLE
26 STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH REGISTER WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE USE
27 OF CLASSES OF ITEMS WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL LISTING OF ITEMS WOULD BE
28 BURDENSOME.

29 5. NO COLLECTING INSTITUTION MAY DISPOSE OF AN ITEM OR ITEMS IN ITS
30 COLLECTION EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN THIS STATUTE AND IN ITS MISSION STATE-
31 MENT AND COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT POLICY AND NOT UNTIL THE ITEM OR ITEMS
32 HAVE BEEN DEACCESSIONED.

33 6. PROCEEDS FROM DISPOSAL OF AN ITEM SHALL ONLY BE USED FOR PURPOSES
34 SET FORTH IN THIS STATUTE.

35 7. NO ITEM IN A COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S COLLECTION MAY BE USED AS
36 COLLATERAL OR MAY BE CAPITALIZED. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL AFFECT
37 ANY COLLATERALIZATION OR CAPITALIZATION AGREEMENT, ENTERED INTO BY A
38 COLLECTING INSTITUTION IN EXISTENCE FOR OVER SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AND
39 WHOSE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION, AS AMENDED, HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE
40 SECRETARY OF STATE, THAT IS ALREADY IN EFFECT OR PREVENT ITEMS PLEDGED
41 AS COLLATERAL OR CAPITALIZED ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION TO
42 CONTINUE TO BE USED AS COLLATERAL OR CAPITALIZED AT ANY TIME IN THE
43 FUTURE PROVIDING THAT THE ITEMS REMAIN IN THE POSSESSION OF THE COLLECT-
44 ING INSTITUTION EXCEPT THAT NOTHING HEREIN SHALL IMPAIR A LENDER'S
45 RIGHTS UNDER A COLLATERALIZATION AGREEMENT TO FORECLOSE ON THE COLLAT-
46 ERAL UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT. THE EXISTENCE OF ANY COLLATERALI-
47 ZATION OR CAPITALIZATION AGREEMENT SHALL BE DISCLOSED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

48 8. A COLLECTING INSTITUTION MAY DEACCESSION AN ITEM IN ITS COLLECTION
49 ONLY IF ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA HAVE BEEN MET:

50 (A) THE ITEM IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION OF THE COLLECTING INSTI-
51 TUTION AS SET FORTH IN ITS MISSION STATEMENT;

52 (B) THE ITEM HAS FAILED TO RETAIN ITS IDENTITY;

53 (C) THE ITEM IS REDUNDANT;

54 (D) THE ITEM'S PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION NEEDS ARE BEYOND THE
55 CAPACITY OF THE COLLECTING INSTITUTION TO PROVIDE;

(E) THE ITEM IS DEACCESSIONED TO ACCOMPLISH REFINEMENT OF COLLECTIONS AS REQUIRED BY AND/OR STATED IN ITS COLLECTION MANAGEMENT POLICY;

(F) IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT THE ITEM IS INAUTHENTIC;

(G) THE COLLECTING INSTITUTION IS REPATRIATING THE ITEM OR RETURNING THE ITEM TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER;

(H) THE COLLECTING INSTITUTION IS RETURNING THE ITEM TO THE DONOR, OR THE DONOR'S HEIRS OR ASSIGNS, TO FULFILL DONOR RESTRICTIONS RELATING TO THE ITEM WHICH THE COLLECTING INSTITUTION IS NO LONGER ABLE TO MEET;

(I) THE ITEM PRESENTS A HAZARD TO PEOPLE OR OTHER COLLECTION ITEMS.

9. THE BOARD OF REGENTS IS DIRECTED TO CREATE A STATEWIDE REGISTER AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET FOR THE PURPOSES OF COLLECTING AND PROVIDING PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT DEACCESSIONING, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE ABILITY OF A COLLECTING INSTITUTION TO LIST AN ITEM FOR ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL DEACCESSIONING.

10. (A) PROCEEDS FROM THE DISPOSAL OF AN ITEM OR ITEMS MAY BE USED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ANOTHER ITEM OR ITEMS FOR THE COLLECTION AND/OR FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION OR CARE OF AN ITEM OR ITEMS IN THE COLLECTION. IN NO EVENT, HOWEVER, SHALL PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM THE DISPOSAL OF AN ITEM OR ITEMS FROM A COLLECTION BE USED FOR TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY OPERATING EXPENSES. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL LIMIT THE ABILITY OF A COLLECTING INSTITUTION TO SET MORE RESTRICTIVE POLICIES RELATING TO THE USE OF PROCEEDS FROM A DISPOSED ITEM.

(B) A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OPERATING A COLLECTING INSTITUTION SHALL ESTABLISH A COLLECTION RESERVE FUND. PROCEEDS RECEIVED FROM THE SALE OF A DISPOSED ITEM SHALL BE USED TO PAY OFF ANY REMAINING DEBT INCURRED IN THE PURCHASE OF THE DEACCESSIONED ITEM THAT WAS SOLD. ANY MONEYS REMAINING AFTER THE PAYMENT OF SUCH DEBT SHALL BE PAID INTO THE COLLECTION RESERVE FUND AND SHALL BE DEPOSITED AND SECURED IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY SECTION TEN OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW. THE GOVERNMENTAL COLLECTING INSTITUTION MAY USE MONEYS FROM THE COLLECTION RESERVE FUND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES AUTHORIZED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

11. THE BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL ADOPT RULES OR REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

S 3. The board of regents is hereby authorized and directed, in consultation with groups and individuals who have expertise in the field, to consider and make recommendations concerning whether collecting institutions should include buildings in their collection. Such study shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) The reasons for the inclusion of a building in a collecting institution's collection;

(b) Criteria for determining when it is permissible to include a building in a collecting institution's collection;

(c) Whether funds from the sale of disposed items can be used to care for the physical well-being of the structure and if so what limitations, if any, should there be.

The regents shall submit a copy of the study to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chairperson of the senate higher education committee and the chairperson of the assembly higher education committee no later than six months from the effective date of this act.

S 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 5 of section 233-a of the education law is REPEALED and a new paragraph (a) is added to read as follows:

(A) PROCEEDS FROM THE DISPOSAL OF AN ITEM OR ITEMS FROM A COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S COLLECTION MAY BE USED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ANOTHER ITEM OR ITEMS FOR THE COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S COLLECTION AND/OR FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION OR CARE OF AN ITEM OR ITEMS IN THE COLLECTION.

1 IN NO EVENT, HOWEVER, SHALL PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM THE DISPOSAL OF AN
2 ITEM OR ITEMS FROM A COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S COLLECTION BE USED FOR
3 TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY OPERATING EXPENSES. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION
4 SHALL LIMIT THE ABILITY OF A COLLECTING INSTITUTION TO SET MORE RESTRIC-
5 TIVE POLICIES RELATING TO THE USE OF PROCEEDS FROM A DISPOSED ITEM.
6 S 5. Subdivision 5 of section 233-aa of the education law is REPEALED
7 and a new subdivision 5 is added to read as follows:
8 5. PROCEEDS FROM THE DISPOSAL OF AN ITEM OR ITEMS FROM A COLLECTING
9 INSTITUTION'S COLLECTION MAY BE USED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ANOTHER ITEM
10 OR ITEMS FOR THE COLLECTION AND/OR FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION
11 COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S OR CARE OF AN ITEM OR ITEMS IN THE COLLECTION.
12 IN NO EVENT, HOWEVER, SHALL PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM THE DISPOSAL OF AN
13 ITEM OR ITEMS FROM A COLLECTING INSTITUTION'S COLLECTION BE USED FOR
14 TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY OPERATING EXPENSES. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION
15 SHALL LIMIT THE ABILITY OF A COLLECTING INSTITUTION TO SET MORE RESTRIC-
16 TIVE POLICIES RELATING TO THE USE OF PROCEEDS FROM A DISPOSED ITEM.
17 S 6. This act shall take effect immediately.