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

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2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

May 20, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. ABINANTI, ARROYO, CAHILL, KEARNS, MARKEY, McDONALD, SIMON, BARRETT, THIELE, COLTON, RAIA, RA, OTIS -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK, DiPIETRO, GUNTHER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology -- 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 relating to studying the economic impact of public libraries and public library systems in New York state

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

Section 1. Study of the economic impact of public libraries and public library systems. The empire state development corporation, in consultation with the state education department, shall conduct a study on the economic impact of public libraries and public library systems in New York state. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. The return on investment New York state and local governments receive from public libraries and public library systems;

b. The direct, indirect, and induced economic impact of all public library expenditures on the state and local economies;

c. An examination of the resources, services, and programs provided to library patrons for career development;

d. An examination of the resources, services, and programs provided to current and prospective business owners; and

e. An analysis of public library systems and the value they provide to public libraries.

S 2. For the purposes of this act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

a. "public library" shall mean any public or association library, other than professional, technical or public school library, established

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

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for free public purposes by official action of a municipality or district or the legislature, where the whole interests belong to the public; the term "association" library shall be construed to mean a library established and controlled, in whole or in part, by a group of private individuals operating as an association, closed corporation or as trustees under the provisions of a will or deed of trust; and the term "free" as applied to a library shall be construed to mean a library maintained for the benefit and free use on equal terms of all the people of the community in which the library is located.

b. "public library system" shall mean:

(1) A library established by one or more counties.

(2) A group of libraries serving an area including one or more counties in whole or in part.

(3) A library of a city containing one or more counties.

(4) A cooperative library system established pursuant to section 255 of the education law, the plan of library service of any of which shall have been approved by the commissioner of the department of education.

S 3. The empire state development corporation shall conduct such study which shall be completed by January 1, 2017. Such study shall be provided to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the chair of the assembly libraries and education technology committee, and the chair of the senate select committee on libraries. Such study shall also be posted on the New York state library's website.

S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.