STATE OF NEW YORK

3024

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 19, 2017

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:

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

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

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

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding 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.

LBD08574-01-7