

STATE OF NEW YORK

754

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 9, 2019

Introduced by Sens. MONTGOMERY, COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend chapter 606 of the laws of 1902 relating to the incorporation of the Brooklyn public library and limiting and defining the powers thereof, in relation to membership and duties of the board of trustees and oversight of certain executive personnel

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

1 Section 1. Section 2 of chapter 606 of the laws of 1902, relating to
2 the incorporation of the Brooklyn public library and limiting and defin-
3 ing the powers thereof, as amended by chapter 569 of the laws of 2007,
4 is amended to read as follows:

5 § 2. Upon the designation and appointment of members of the said
6 corporation by the mayor of the city of New York and the president of
7 the borough of Brooklyn, and the election of the elected members of the
8 said corporation, as above provided, the said corporation shall organize
9 by the adoption of by-laws and the election of officers. The membership
10 thereof, other than the public officers who are members ex officio,
11 shall be divided by lot into three classes as nearly equal as may be, so
12 that the term of office of one of said classes shall expire upon the
13 first day of February in each of the next succeeding three years. After
14 the expiration of each such term, the term of office for which a member
15 of the corporation shall be appointed or elected shall be three years,
16 except that in case of a vacancy occurring otherwise than by the expira-
17 tion of a term, such vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term
18 only. Any member shall, however, be eligible for reappointment or
19 reelection. In the case of any vacancy occurring among those members
20 originally appointed pursuant to [a] chapter 569 of the laws of 2007
21 [~~which amends section one of this act,~~] by the mayor of the city of New

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

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1 York and in cases of their successors to be appointed upon the expira-
2 tion of their term, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the
3 mayor of the city of New York, and, in the case of any vacancy occurring
4 among those members originally appointed pursuant to ~~[such]~~ chapter 569
5 of the laws of 2007 by the president of the borough of Brooklyn and in
6 cases of their successors to be appointed upon the expiration of their
7 term, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the president of
8 the borough of Brooklyn, on the first day of February in each year or
9 within thirty days thereafter, or in cases of a vacancy existing other-
10 wise than by expiration of a term, shall be filled by appointment by the
11 ex officio member (or by his or her successor in office) who had last
12 appointed the non-ex officio member whose office has been vacated and is
13 to be filled, within thirty days after its occurrence. In the case of
14 any vacancy occurring among the elected members originally elected
15 pursuant to ~~[such]~~ chapter 569 of the laws of 2007, from the board of
16 trustees of the Brooklyn public library foundation, and in cases of
17 their successors to be elected upon the expiration of their term, such
18 vacancy shall be filled by election by the members of the board then in
19 office, who shall separately convene for such purpose, a majority of
20 those members then in office being a quorum, on the first day of Febru-
21 ary in each year or within thirty days thereafter, or for the purpose of
22 filling a vacancy existing otherwise than by expiration a term within
23 thirty days after its occurrence. Any trustee appointed to a new term or
24 filling a vacancy on or after June 1, 2019 must be either a resident of
25 Brooklyn or own or operate a business in Brooklyn; and provided further
26 that the appointing party shall notify the other appointing party of who
27 was appointed. The appointing party shall be authorized to remove a
28 trustee whom such party appointed for misconduct, incapacity, neglect of
29 duty, or where it appears to the satisfaction of the appointing party
30 that the trustee has failed or refuses to carry into effect its educa-
31 tional purpose. The appointing party shall not be required to obtain a
32 recommendation from the board to remove a trustee which such party
33 appointed. A trustee subject to removal shall have an opportunity to
34 submit a response or appeal within seven business days to any cause for
35 removal to the appointing party and the appointing party shall review
36 the reason for removal and any response submitted to the party prior to
37 the removal of such person. When the board recommends removal, the
38 trustee subject to removal may appeal to both appointing parties and
39 either appointing party may remove the trustee where sufficient cause is
40 found. When one of the appointing parties recommends removal of a trus-
41 tee, such appointing party must provide the subject trustee with notice
42 and an opportunity to appeal, provided, however, that the trustee
43 subject to removal by an appointing body may submit a written appeal to
44 both appointing parties for review and both parties must agree on
45 removal for such removal to be effective. Membership in the said corpo-
46 ration shall not operate to vacate any nonsalaried city office. The said
47 corporation shall make and publish an annual report in detail of its
48 proceedings and transactions for each year, including a full and
49 detailed statement of its revenues and expenses, and it shall furnish
50 copies thereof to the mayor, the council, the comptroller of the city of
51 New York and to the president of the borough of Brooklyn. The Brooklyn
52 Public Library shall be subject to article 6 of the public officers law.

53 § 2. Chapter 606 of the laws of 1902 relating to the incorporation of
54 the Brooklyn public library and limiting and defining the powers thereof
55 is amended by adding four new sections 4-a, 5-a, 8-a and 8-b to read as
56 follows:

1 § 4-a. a. The trustees shall hold annual public budget hearings,
2 provide a thirty day public comment period prior to adoption of the
3 budget and report all revenue sources of funding for the budget, both
4 public and private.

5 b. The testimony presented at such public budget hearing may be
6 presented in writing or orally, provided that the trustees may make
7 rules designed to exclude repetitive, redundant or irrelevant testimony.
8 The trustees shall make a record of all testimony at the public budget
9 hearings. For purposes of this section "public budget hearing" means a
10 public forum at a physical location, attended by trustees and the
11 library's executive director or their designees, where oral testimony is
12 accepted and written testimony may be submitted for inclusion in the
13 record. Such forum shall be open to the general public for the presenta-
14 tion of comments. Such hearing shall be commenced upon proper notice to
15 the public at least thirty days prior to the scheduled hearing date.
16 Notice of the public budget hearing shall be provided on the library's
17 website, on fliers posted inside the library's main location and in each
18 of its branch locations, and in any other alternative manner chosen by
19 the trustees.

20 § 5-a. a. The executive director and key library executive personnel
21 shall comply with financial disclosure requirements when public money is
22 used to fund staff salaries. For the purposes of this section, "public
23 money" shall mean money from the state or county or a town, village, or
24 city. The board of trustees shall adopt by-laws requiring mandatory
25 annual financial disclosures from the executive director and other key
26 library executive personnel.

27 b. The board of trustees shall adopt by-laws limiting the type and
28 extent of employment the executive director and any key library execu-
29 tive personnel may engage in other than his or her employment with the
30 library. Such by-laws shall require the executive director and the key
31 library executive personnel to report any employment other than his or
32 her employment with the library to the board of trustees and shall
33 require the board to approve such employment.

34 c. The board of trustees shall adopt by-laws regarding the approval
35 for hiring and establishing policies for the compensation of key library
36 executive personnel.

37 § 8-a. The board of trustees shall appoint:

38 a. an audit committee which shall oversee the library's accounting and
39 financial reporting processes and annual audits. The audit committee
40 shall retain an auditor, review the scope and planning of all audits
41 with the auditor and review and discuss the results. The audit committee
42 shall consider the auditor's performance and independence and report
43 annually on the auditor's activities to the board of trustees.

44 b. an executive committee which shall be comprised of a representative
45 cross-section of the board of trustees. The board of trustees shall
46 abolish the administrative committee and any essential functions or
47 duties of such committee shall be transferred to the executive commit-
48 tee.

49 c. labor relations committee to address labor issues and oversee the
50 contracting out of services.

51 § 8-b. The board of trustees shall establish by-laws prohibiting a
52 person with a conflict of interest from being present at or participat-
53 ing in any deliberations or voting on the matter giving rise to the
54 conflict. The by-laws shall also prohibit the person with the conflict
55 from improperly influencing the deliberation or voting on such matter.
56 Any conflicts of interest brought to the attention of the board of trus-

1 tees or the audit committee shall be documented in the minutes of any
2 meeting at which such conflict was discussed.

3 § 3. The board of trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library shall engage
4 an outside consultant with the requisite expertise to conduct and
5 complete a comprehensive executive compensation study within ninety days
6 of the date this act shall have become a law. Such study shall include,
7 but not be limited to, a review of acceptable fringe benefits, including
8 car allowances and tuition reimbursements.

9 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.