STATE OF NEW YORK

3119

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 23, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. KELLES, SEAWRIGHT, EACHUS, SIMON, LEVENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring certain libraries to adopt policies ensuring that library staff are able to curate collections, services, and programming that reflect diverse interests

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "open shelves act".

§ 2. Section 254 of the education law, as amended by chapter 718 of the laws of 1981, is amended to read as follows:

§ 254. Standards of library service. **1.** The regents shall have power to fix standards of library service for every free association, public and hospital library or, with the advice of the appropriate tribal government and library board of trustees, Indian library which receives any portion of the moneys appropriated by the state to aid such libraries, or which is supported in whole or in part by tax levied by any municipality or district. In the case of a hospital library or a library serving a hospital, such standards shall be established in consultation with the commissioner of health. If any such library shall fail to comply with the regents requirements, such library shall not receive any portion of the moneys appropriated by the state for free, hospital or Indian libraries nor shall any tax be levied by any municipality or district for the support in whole or in part of such library.

2. Such standards shall require every free association, public, and hospital library or, with the advice of the appropriate tribal government and library board of trustees, Indian library, which receives any portion of the moneys appropriated by the state to aid such libraries, to adopt policies and procedures that ensure library staff are able to

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

LBD00089-02-5

curate and develop collections, services, and programming that reflect the interests of all people of the community that the library serves.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law.