STATE OF NEW YORK

6961

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 18, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CHLUDZINSKI, RA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology

AN ACT in relation to establishing a comprehensive study examining public library aid formulas and library construction formulas

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

Section 1. Public library aid and public library construction aid formulas study. The commissioner of education shall enter into a contract with a third-party entity to conduct a comprehensive study of the public library aid and public library construction aid formulas. The contracted entity, in consultation with the department of education, the division of budget and any other state agencies deemed necessary, shall examine, evaluate, and recommend potential modifications to the calculation of public library aid formulas pursuant to sections 271, 273, 284 and 285 of the education law and the public library construction aid formula pursuant to section 273-a of the education law. The contracted entity shall gather and consider feedback from a broad range of stakeholders, including but not limited to library systems, library administrators, library boards, municipal officials, school districts, and library organizations. The contracted entity shall hold at least three public hearings across the state to gather input from such stakeholders.

§ 2. The results, findings, and recommendations of the study shall be for study purposes only and shall not be considered binding upon the executive or the legislature in any manner.

§ 3. The study shall evaluate each component of the current public library aid and public library construction aid formulas and other relevant factors including but not limited to:

(a) whether the formulas ensure adequate and equitable funding for all library systems;

(b) per capita aid calculations and their responsiveness to inflation and population changes;

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

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(c) maintenance of effort requirements for municipalities;
(d) outstanding capital improvement needs;
(e) technology access; and
(f) library operating aid and library construction aid funding models used in other states.

§ 4. No later than one year following the effective date of this act, the contracted entity shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and the minority leader of the assembly. The report shall also be published on the contracted entity's public website and disseminated to all public library systems in the state.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.