



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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S5956 (Chu) / A4112 (Jensen)

An act to amend the parks, recreation, and historic preservation law, in relation to creating the "Checkout NY" pass

The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation.

If enacted, this bill would create the "Checkout NY" pass, a comprehensive pass that allows for free or discounted use of state parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities, and provides one such pass to each consolidated, federated, and cooperative public library system within the state, free of charge, for circulation.

More than mere repositories of books and periodicals, New York's libraries are vital, flexible institutions that work to meet needs as diverse as the patrons they serve. Whether offering access to the latest literary titles, broadband connectivity, or workforce development programming, they leverage community investment and shared resources to expand the availability of materials and services vital for 21st century life.

Of particular interest to libraries is the expansion of access to New York's cultural heritage. As the primary centers of local art and history in many communities across our state, libraries are frequently the gateway through which residents first engage with their state's abundance of cultural, historical, and environmental riches. The "Checkout NY" pass would enable libraries to build on their existing efforts to accomplish this task by creating a pass that allows families of all socio-economic status the opportunity to experience New York's state parks, historical sites, and recreational facilities.

Greater access to New York's cultural and natural heritage reinforces residents' sense of identity as New Yorkers and, in turn, strengthens our state.

For these reasons, the New York Library Association urges the legislature to pass S5956/A4112.

For additional information, please contact Max Prime at the New York Library Association at 518.432.6952.



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