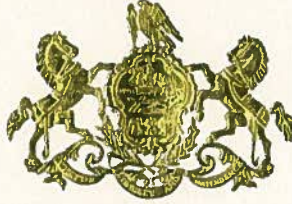


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Senate of Pennsylvania

July 21, 2011

TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Dominic Pileggi 
RE: Co-Sponsorship of Library Code Updates

I plan to introduce legislation to codify and update the Library Code.

The Library Code was enacted by the General Assembly in 1961. When it was enacted, it was a model for other states. It is now considered antiquated.

The Senate adopted SR 343 on June 22, 2010 which directed the Joint State Government Commission to study and review the Library Code for modernization. My legislation is a result of that study, which was completed in December 2010. The proposed legislation will modernize the style and language of the law as well as reconcile inconsistent provisions of the statute.

This legislation will change the composition of the Advisory Council on Library Development to include librarians. It will provide service standards that reflect current and evolving technologies and include staffing, collections, facilities and accessibility. This will enable libraries to take into account e-books, electronic journal databases and other forms of media in collections, in recognition that a modern library consists of more than bound volumes.

Additionally, it will provide for more flexibility in enforcement of standards in the face of libraries having difficulty meeting criteria for state funding. Currently, if a library does not meet standards, it loses all funding.

Pennsylvania has long been a leader in the establishment and support of public libraries. Please join me in the

All Senators

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continuation of that leadership role by updating the Library Code to reflect changes that have occurred over the past 50 years.

If you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Michelle Kreiger in my office at mkreiger@pasen.gov or 787-4712.

DP/KP/kss