

TO: NJLA Members- two important announcements regarding library funding.

1. A2555 was introduced by Assemblyman John DiMaio on March 16, 2010. It would eliminate the 1/3 mil requirement and instead base the annual appropriation on the actual amount deemed necessary by the municipal governing body.

This bill has been referred to the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee.

2. Below is a message from State Librarian Norma Blake. I have spoken with NJLA Public Policy chair, Eileen Palmer and NJLA Public Policy vice-chair Chris Carbone. We are working on a statement for all libraries to place on their websites on Monday.

These are the most serious threats we have ever faced for New Jersey libraries.

TO: Library Directors
FROM: Norma E. Blake, State Librarian
SUBJECT: 2011 Budget
DATE: March 17, 2010

Yesterday we became aware through Treasury budget documents that it is proposed that Thomas Edison State College and the New Jersey State Library will be merged with the New Jersey State Museum and governed by Rutgers University starting July 1, 2010.

In addition:

- Libraries lost \$1.449 million (all) of NJKI (databases including RefUSA, Business Source Premiere, and Academic Search Premiere).
- \$4.299 million (all) in Network Aid (including Regions and Statewide Services, such as delivery, databases, interlibrary loan and continuing education.
- \$1.170 million (all) in virtual aid (databases and the public library JerseyConnect Technology System.)
- \$3.5 million in Per Capita State Aid (leaving \$3.676 million)
- Libraries have lost 74% in library program funding from the FY 2010 appropriation which is unprecedented and disproportionate to other Departments' losses.

If these cuts remain once the budget is passed in June, an unintended consequence would be the loss of \$4.5 million in federal funds. Also, if the cut to JerseyConnect is maintained, the State Library cannot accept the \$7.5 million Broadband funds if awarded by NTIA.

The State Library is talking to the New Jersey Library Association about our concerns regarding the loss of federal money and services to libraries like delivery, databases, interlibrary loan, Per Capita State Aid and JerseyConnect.

We will communicate again with you as soon as we know what action is needed.