Legislative Roundup

Presented by State Librarian Julie Walker

February 3, 2016
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Overview

• Georgia General Assembly: What You Need to Know
• Review of 2015 Session
• 2016 Session
  • Projects list
• Advocacy: What Can Libraries Do?
• Future Issues
• Federal Legislation Affecting Libraries
“Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one.”

Neil Gaiman
29,500,000
Annual visits to local libraries
with more every year!

Over 13 million
Computer sessions

Over 1.8 million
Program attendance

Over 39 million
Materials checked out

Almost 5 million
Tracked Wi-Fi sessions

Over 1,000%
Increased bandwidth speed

Over $10 million
 Saved through partnerships with state attractions
Georgia ranks 27th...

...in state support for public libraries.

State budget restrictions to public library funding have a direct impact on ability to meet increasing demand.
ADA ramp difficult to navigate

Children's Dept is underlit & overcrowded with exposed HVAC

Public meeting areas are underlit with exposed wiring, housing multiple depts materials

Children's program forced outside

Public comps crammed into area with other materials
Library Laws

RULES OF DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES PUBLIC HEALTH

- Ga Smokefree Air Act Admin rules, 350K

GEORGIA CODE

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<td>20-2-305 County &amp; Regional Public Libraries.pdf</td>
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<td>20-2-320 Education Information.pdf</td>
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LANDMARK VICTORY FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND STUDENTS TODAY!

Does your voice matter? Yes, it does!! It's official and, incredibly, it's virtually UNANIMOUS. Thanks in large part to the enthusiastic response to our call to action yesterday, and a boost from mega-author James Patterson, the U.S. Senate today voted 98 – 0 in favor of the bi-partisan Reed-Cochran Amendment to S. 1177, the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015! This amendment will explicitly make effective school library programs part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Prior to the vote, both Sens. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Thad Cochran (R-MS) spoke eloquently in support of this amendment and the importance of school libraries. Their work has been invaluable in garnering attention for the important role that an effective school library program plays in a student’s education.
You don’t always win your battles, but it’s good to know you fought.
—Lauren Bacall
curiano.com
Questions?