

DETAILS ON HR 987

On October 5, 2010, a historic event occurred for school libraries in Pennsylvania. The first piece of legislation – House Resolution 987 – solely focused on school libraries was **unanimously passed** in the PA House of Representatives! Rep. Mark Longietti (D-Mercer Co.) the primary sponsor was able to craft a new version of HR 720, with the help of Baruch Kintisch, Education Law Center, making small changes that received House leadership approval to move the resolution for passage. Rep. Longietti worked tirelessly with PSLA members on the behalf of students and school libraries to get this done.

The new resolution urges the State Board of Education with the PA Dept. of Education to conduct a study of the status of school libraries by June 30, 2011. All data that was originally stated in HR 720 is still stated in HR 987. The final version can be found at

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syar=2009&sind=0&body=H&type=R&BN=0987>.

The study requests that the following data be collected and evaluated by June 30, 2011.

- The number of public schools without a centralized school library collection in the building under the administration of a certified school librarian assigned full-time to that building,
- The ratio of certified school librarians to students,
- The assignment of other support staff to work in school libraries, the number of such other staff, and their qualifications,
- The number of hours that students have access to the school library in their building per day,
- The amount of up-to-date and useful print and electronic resources to which students and teachers have access to through school library services,
- The average age and condition of books and technology in school libraries,
- The amount of funding from each and all sources being spent annually over the last ten years for school library resources and services,
- The availability of up-to-date, functional, Internet-connected computers for student use libraries,
- The other services and programs provided by school libraries to support students and teachers.

Prepared by the PSLA Legislation Committee

10/6/10