Westchester Library Association

Legislative Report

December 13, 2012

Submitted by Donna Pesce

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According to an article in *The New York Times*, on November 29:

The Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday approved [a bill that would strengthen privacy protection for e-mails](http://www.leahy.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Leahy-Substitute-to-HR2471.pdf) by requiring law enforcement officials to obtain a warrant from a judge in most cases before gaining access to messages in individual accounts stored electronically.

If passed, the bill would update the 1986 Electronic Communications Privacy Act.

(Savage, Charlie. “Panel Approves a Bill to Safeguard E-Mail.” The New York Times, November 29, 2012. Retrieved 12/12/12 from http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/30/technology/senate-committee-approves-stricter-privacy-for-e-mail.html)

A hearing was conducted by the New York State Assembly Committee on Libraries and Educational Technology on November 29. State Librarian Bernard M Margolis and Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education, Jeffrey W. Cannel testified along with representatives from library organizations statewide, including Westchester Library System President Dave Donelson and Executive Director Terry Kirchner. (“Advocates of the Westchester Library system,” Westchester Library System, December 4, 2012. Retrieved 12/12/12 from http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/files/advocates/alerts/Alert\_20121204-Budgets.pdf)