Section 1. Erie County Local Law number one of nineteen hundred fifty-nine, constituting the Erie county charter, is amended by amending section sixteen hundred twelve thereto to read as follows:

1612. Support of public libraries.

a. A portion of the annual real property tax shall be annually levied and collected for library purposes, and shall be separately set out on the real property tax notices as the "amount for library purposes." The entire amount of funds allocated in the general budget for library purposes shall be available to the Buffalo and Erie county public library, and shall not be subject to withholding, modification, or reduction by the county after adoption of the annual Erie county budget, consistent with library powers in section two hundred fifty-nine of the education law, except that the trustees of the Buffalo and Erie county public library shall not authorize, without the prior approval of the county legislature, the transfer of any appropriation from one branch or contract library to another which would necessitate the closing of any branch or contract library.

b. The Erie county legislature shall, by majority vote, annually determine the amount to be raised for the Buffalo and Erie county public library under this section. Such amount shall not exceed the anticipated county share of the Buffalo and Erie county public library expenses adopted in the annual Erie county budget.

Section 2. This local law shall be construed to be in all respects consistent with chapter seven hundred sixty-eight of the laws of nineteen hundred fifty-three and not to alter any provision of that statute, but to carry out the purposes and intent of that statute.

Section 3. This local law shall be effective January first, the year two thousand and two upon adoption by a two-thirds majority of the legislature, or, if adopted by a simple majority, this local law shall be effective immediately following approval by the
electors of the county at the next general election of state or county government officers held not less than sixty days following the adoption of this local law, provided, however, that the provisions of this local law shall expire and be deemed repealed on or after January first, the year two thousand and three.