



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 595

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7014

House of Representatives, April 8, 2025

The Committee on Education reported through REP. LEEPER of the 132nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Library material" means books, periodicals or any other sources,
3 in print or nonprint format, available for reference purposes or to be
4 circulated for voluntary inquiry by students. "Library material" does not
5 include materials required as a part of classroom instruction;
- 6 (2) "Remove" means deliberately taking library material out of a
7 library's or media center's collection. "Remove" does not include the
8 process of clearing such collection of any materials that are no longer
9 useful;
- 10 (3) "Restrict access" means placing library material in any manner to
11 limit circulation or accessibility; and
- 12 (4) "Qualified complaint" means a request by a student, or a parent or
13 guardian of a student, to remove or restrict access to library material in

14 the collection of the school library or media center of the school in which
15 such student is enrolled.

16 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, each local and regional board of
17 education shall establish a policy for the evaluation of any library
18 material that is the subject of a qualified complaint or otherwise subject
19 to removal or restricted access. Such policy shall include, but need not
20 be limited to, (1) developing a complaint form for filing qualified
21 complaints, which form shall be posted on the Internet web site of each
22 school under such board's jurisdiction, (2) prescribing a process for the
23 submission of a qualified complaint, (3) establishing a library material
24 review committee that shall include, but need not be limited to, (A) the
25 principal of the school in which the library material is located, (B) the
26 director of curriculum, or a person in an equivalent position, employed
27 by such board, (C) a certified school librarian employed by such board
28 or employed by another board of education in the state, (D) the
29 superintendent of the school district, or the superintendent's designee,
30 and (E) one or more teachers employed by such board, and (4)
31 specifying the process for a library material review committee's
32 evaluation of library material and the time frame and manner in which
33 such committee is required to respond to a qualified complaint. Such
34 board shall review such policy and make any necessary updates not less
35 frequently than every five years after establishing such policy.

36 (c) No local or regional board of education shall permit library
37 material to be removed or subject to restricted access unless a library
38 material review committee completes an evaluation of such library
39 material and a final decision is made, as prescribed by the policy
40 established by such board pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, to
41 remove or restrict access to such library material. Such board shall post
42 any such final decision about whether such library material will be
43 removed or subjected to restricted access on the Internet web site of such
44 board.

45 (d) Each local or regional board of education shall provide a reason
46 for the removal of or restricted access to any library material belonging

47 to the collection of a school library or media center as a result of the
48 process prescribed by the policy established pursuant to subsection (b)
49 of this section. No board shall remove or restrict access to library
50 material because of any of the following:

- 51 (1) Partisan content or views contained in any library material;
- 52 (2) An author's race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation
53 or political or religious views;
- 54 (3) The personal discomfort, morality or political or religious views
55 of a member or members of the board;
- 56 (4) An author's points of view concerning current events, whether
57 international, national or local;
- 58 (5) The race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation or
59 political or religious views of a protagonist or other characters or as
60 otherwise represented in the library material; or
- 61 (6) The content of the library material is related to sexual health and
62 addresses physical, mental, emotional or social dimensions of human
63 sexuality, including, but not limited to, puberty, sex and relationships,
64 provided such library material may be subject to removal or restricted
65 access if it is not appropriate for students based on age, development
66 and grade level.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (a)(2), "or media center's" was added for consistency.

ED Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill has no fiscal impact. It requires local and regional school districts to establish a policy for evaluating library material that is subject to removal or has been the subject of complaint. It is anticipated that districts can meet the requirements of the bill with existing resources.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7014*****AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires local and regional boards of education, by January 1, 2026, to establish a policy for evaluating any library material that is subject to removal or restricted access or that is the subject of a complaint. The bill specifies the policy's minimum requirements and requires school boards to review the policy and make necessary updates at least every five years. Under the bill, the policies do not apply to library collection materials being cleared because they are no longer useful or classroom instruction materials.

Under the bill, school boards must give a reason for removing or restricting access to any library material in a school library's or media center's collection due to the policy. The bill also prohibits them from removing or restricting material for specified reasons (e.g., partisan content or views contained in the material).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

APPLICABILITY

Under the bill, the policy applies to library material that is the subject of a "qualified complaint" or is otherwise subject to removal (i.e. being deliberately taken out of the collection) or restricted access (i.e. limited circulation or availability). A qualified complaint is a request by an enrolled student, or the student's parent or guardian, to remove or restrict access to library material in the school library or media center.

Under the bill, "library material" means books, periodicals, or any other sources, in print or nonprint format, available for reference purposes or to be circulated for voluntary inquiry by students; it

excludes materials required as part of classroom instruction. Additionally, the bill does not apply to the process of clearing a library collection of material that is no longer useful.

POLICY CONTENT

The bill requires school boards to adopt a policy by January 1, 2026, that has at least the following:

1. a complaint form, which must be posted on the website of each school under the board's jurisdiction, and a complaint submission process;
2. a library material review committee (see below); and
3. a review committee evaluation process, including the timeframe and way in which it must respond to qualified complaints.

The bill requires that the library material review committee include at least the following people: (1) the school principal, (2) the director of curriculum or a person in an equivalent position who the board employs, (3) a certified school librarian (employed by the board or another school board in the state), (4) the district's superintendent or his or her designee, and (5) at least one teacher employed by the board.

REMOVING OR RESTRICTING ACCESS TO LIBRARY MATERIAL

The bill prohibits school boards from removing or restricting access to library material unless the committee completes its evaluation and makes a final decision pursuant to its policy. The board must post the final decision on its website.

Prohibited Reasons

Under the bill, school boards must give a reason for removing or restricting access to any library material in a school library's or media center's collection due to the process established in the board's policy. It also prohibits them from removing or restricting library material for the following reasons:

1. partisan content or views in any library material;

2. the race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, or political or religious views of (a) an author or (b) a protagonist or other characters or as otherwise represented in the material;
3. personal discomfort, morality, or political or religious views of a board member or members;
4. an author's opinion on local, national, or international current events; and
5. the content's relating to sexual health and addressing physical, mental, emotional, or social dimensions of human sexuality, including puberty, sex, and relationships (except that material may be removed or restricted if it is inappropriate for students based on age, development, and grade level).

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sSB 1271 (File 204), favorably reported by the Committee on Children, requires school boards to adopt policies on library (1) collection development and maintenance, (2) display and programs, and (3) material review and reconsideration.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 15 (03/21/2025)