



General Assembly
January Session, 2025

Substitute Bill No. 7014



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*