
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)