

April 1, 2025



# Update from the Capitol 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session



# **Texas State Library & Archives Commission Update**



# Contact Congress

## Protect Federal Funding for Libraries





# Update from the Capitol



# Session Activity

8620 bills filed

Today is the 78<sup>th</sup> day of the session

62 days until Sine Die (June 2)

# Texas Bill Tracker



[txla.org/bill-tracker](https://txla.org/bill-tracker)

TLA tracking 59 bills

These bills have been filed for the 89th Texas Legislative Session. Bill filing is open through March 14.

## 2025 Bill Tracker

*03/27/2025: Referred to State Affairs*

**TX HB3327 - Relating to repealing the affirmative defense to prosecution for the criminal offense of sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor. (In Committee)**

AN ACT relating to repealing the affirmative defense to prosecution for the criminal offense of sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor.

*03/21/2025: Referred to State Affairs*

**TX HB3160 - Relating to Internet safety and technology protection policies in public schools and libraries. (In Committee)**

AN ACT relating to Internet safety and technology protection policies in public schools and libraries.

*03/20/2025: Referred to Public Education*

**TX HB3225 - Relating to the prohibition of access by minors to sexually explicit materials in municipal public library collections; providing a civil penalty. (In Committee)**

AN ACT relating to the prohibition of access by minors to sexually explicit materials in municipal public library collections; providing a civil penalty.

# Key Bills



**HB 1480** by Longoria gives TSLAC authority to award construction grants. *Heard in Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee March 27*

**SB 13** by Paxton: requires school districts to establish Local School Library Advisory Councils to assist districts in ensuring local community values are reflected in school library collections. The majority must be parents appointed by the school board. *Passed Senate; sent to House*

**SB 18 by Hughes:** prohibits municipal libraires that host an event where a man presenting as a woman, or a woman presenting as a man reads a book or story to a minor for entertainment, and the person dressed as the opposite gender is a primary component of the entertainment from receiving state or other public funding. *Passed Senate; sent to House*

# Key Bills



**SB 19** by Middleton, prohibits political subdivisions from paying for membership in organizations that have contract lobbyists. *Passed Senate, referred to House State Affairs Committee*

**SB 412** by Flores removes the affirmative defense for education from the Penal Code, Harmful Materials to Minors section. *Passed Senate, sent to House*

**HB 267** by Patterson removes the affirmative defense for education from the Penal Code, Harmful Materials to Minors section. *Identical to SB 412, passed by House State Affairs Committee*

*Other Senate bills amending the penal code have been referred to Senate Criminal Justice Committee and House bills to the House State Affairs Committee*



# Key Bills



**HB 2572** by Harrison prohibits public libraries and school libraries from using public funds to join the American Library Association, attend or participate in any ALA events; or financially support the association either directly or indirectly. *Referred to Culture, Recreation & Tourism committee*

**SB 2101** by Hughes prohibits access by minors to sexually explicit materials in municipal libraries, requires age verification to make sure minors don't access sexually explicit materials; annual review of materials accessible to minors to see if there are sexually explicit materials, and gives TSLAC enforcement authority and if library is not in compliance, they may not receive funding in the next fiscal year and are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000. *Referred to Senate State Affairs Committee*

**HB 3225** by Alders is very similar to SB 2101. *Referred to House State Affairs Committee*

# Key Bills



**HB 183** by Patterson: Establishes a process for complaints about library materials to go directly to SBOE for review, SBOE makes decision which all districts must follow. *Referred to House Public Education Committee*

**HB 4056** by Schatzline outlines specific collection development requirements; requires that all books must be read and reviewed by a district library supervisor or administrator before purchase; can contract with a cooperative of other districts if needed; outlines the challenge process; includes parental access to materials requirements. *Referred to Public Education*

**HB 5460** by Shofer, the Good, the True, and the Beautiful Act, prohibits county libraries, library districts, and multi-jurisdictional library districts from displaying sexually explicit materials. *Referred to State Affairs.*

# Key Bills



**HB 527** by Morales requires school districts and charter schools to have a librarian present during at least half of each school day at the district or school campus. *Referred to Public Education committee.* **SB 3023** by Menendez is identical. *Referred to Education K-16 committee.*

**HB 4448** by Hickland requires AI review of all school library materials on purchasing list at least 90 days prior to purchase, AI vendors selected and approved by TEA. *Referred to Public Education.*

**HB 5021** by Hopper prohibits materials included on TX Department of Criminal Justice list of prohibited publications from being included in school library collections. *Referred to Public Education*

**HB 5635** by Zwiener prohibits censorship by the state or political subdivision, establishes that library patrons are entitled to access information in libraries without governmental interference, sets up an appeal process if library materials have been censored, provides legal protection for librarians who refuse to censor materials. *Referred to State Affairs.*

# Key Bills



**HB 4010** by Patterson establishes a civil penalty on a school district, not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation, if library materials found not to adhere to mandatory standards are not removed within 30 days of the school district being notified. *Referred to Public Education*

**HB 4198** by Richardson makes changes to the required elements of the mandatory collection development standards, gives any resident of a community ability to file a challenge, and establishes a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 per violation if the district violates the collection development policies. *Referred to Public Education*

**HB 5485** by Money makes changes to the required elements of the mandatory collection development standards, gives SBOE authority to set criteria to determine if library material is educationally unsuitable; districts subject to civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 per violation district's collection development policies. *Referred to Public Education.*



# TAKE ACTION

## SB 412

- Expected to be on the House floor this month
- Email your Texas Representative





# Resources

[txla.org/advocacy](https://txla.org/advocacy)

- TLA Legislative Priorities
- Bill Tracker
- Texas Legislative Process
- Advocacy Tools & Resources

# Take Action



- Know who represents you
- Email them and share your concerns about bills impacting libraries
- Talk to your colleagues and others in your professional network, share information
- Respond to TLA's calls to action
- Connect with the government affairs staff at your district, city etc. if possible

**Sign up for legislative alerts and take action campaigns**



**Texans for the  
Right to Read**

**JOIN US!**

[RightToReadTexas.com](https://RightToReadTexas.com)  
[#RightToReadTX](https://twitter.com/RightToReadTX)







# Thank you!

Next TLA Legislative Update webinar

Wednesday, April 30

4:00 – 5:00pm

Register at [txla.org/events](https://txla.org/events)