

Dear Representatives,

**Please Oppose the following two bills:**

SB 2123: This bill relates to “displaying objectionable materials” and endorses censorship and government overreach. If any organization willfully displays “objectionable materials,” whether image or written format, and someone challenges said material in court, the library and/or library director may be charged with a class B misdemeanor, fines, or both. From the public library perspective, this would be a logistical nightmare. Librarians would have to monitor the contents of every title in the collection and the age of who is looking at them or face the penalty of a class B misdemeanor, fines, or both if they don’t remove material based on someone’s nebulous and subjective definition of “objectionable” content.

HB 1205: This bill relates to “prohibiting public libraries from maintaining sexually explicit books.” HB 1205 endorses censorship, government overreach, and anti LGBTQ sentiments. If a public library has in its collection any material with visual depictions of “explicit sexual material” and someone challenges this in court, the library and/or library director may be charged with a class B misdemeanor, fines, or both. This could include romance novels, unless the covers are removed; movies with sex scenes; any books with images on the covers or inside books relating to sexual identity and gender identity. What it comes down to is that parents should choose what their kids are reading, not the government.

The bylaws of the library state that the library is to remain uncensored and provide material to the community that all citizens can check out. These bills are an overstep of government power to censor what the libraries can offer to the public.

The library does have a procedure in place if someone does have a complaint about a specific book that is on our shelf. This procedure needs to be followed so that it is documented and other colleagues are aware of the complaints and possible bans.

Please vote NO on both of these bills.

Respectively submitted,

Cindy Aaser

Director Hazen Public Library