

Please VOTE NO and DO NOT PASS SB 2307.

First of all, public libraries already have policies and procedures in place for citizens to challenge library materials. These have been in place for some time and were reinforced and standardized un HB102 passed by the Legislature in 2023. This is needless redundancy, and already handled.

Secondly, this bill looks like it is meant to promote endless library chaos in communities about whether or not their public or school libraries are still operating. For this bill allows anyone to make a complaint about any library materials and to request an Attorney General's opinion on the materials alleged offending explicit sexual material, with the added penalty that funds may be directed not to be given to the library until the offending material(s) and the complaint are handled and the library is found [once again] to be in compliance with the provisions of this bill. How is the complaint handled? The library is closed while awaiting the AG's opinion? The offending material is removed from public view and availability?

Thirdly, the bill will be costly to taxpayers. Supposed adult-only or non-child-appropriate materials with sexual content that are in the library and are otherwise found to be within library policies are supposed to be put in areas not accessible to children. Libraries and schools typically have open-space architectural designs. Passage to restrooms, circulation, study areas, and library snack bars, for example may in part be through areas where such materials are found. Putting up walls and barriers or checkpoints all would involve expenditures on remodeling and redesigning library space, at great cost to libraries. Also, people under age 17 or 18 typically are among the shelvers in all areas of the library collections. This is a way to give jobs to high-schoolers and a way to promote the library. Who is supposed to shelve these materials if minors no longer may because they will see covers and containers of potentially adult-content, sexually explicit materials? Volunteers of "legal age" may be recruited, but many who are available are retired seniors, many of whom also cannot stand for lengthy periods of time and may have mobility problems; hence, they may not be available as shelvers.

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Sincerely, Susan Dingle, District 35, voter in all elections