

Testimony on Senate Bill 2307, Section 6  
Submitted by Tony Stukel

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tony Stukel. I am a retired librarian and a member of a public library board. With 32 years of experience as a technology-oriented librarian working in public, school, and academic libraries, I am providing insight on the implications of Section 6 of Senate Bill 2307, introduced by Senators Boehm, Erbele, Hogue, Weston, and Representatives Steiner and Tveit.

This bill requires the use of technology to "filter or block access to explicit sexual material." However, implementing such filtering presents significant challenges:

1. Identifying Restricted Materials – Library electronic collections contain thousands of titles. To restrict access, libraries would need a reliable method to identify prohibited content, which is not clearly defined or present.

2. Age-Based Filtering – If filtering is intended for specific age groups, it would require extensive age verification measures. Implementing and maintaining such a system would demand significant staff time and financial resources, which many libraries simply do not have.

3. Impact on Library Collections – The difficulty of filtering specific content may lead libraries to cancel entire digital collections. For example, compliance with this bill may force libraries to eliminate access to platforms such as Libby/Overdrive, even though only a very small portion of that material might be affected. Similarly, other valuable database subscriptions could be dropped if they cannot accommodate age-based restrictions.

Ultimately, the unintended consequence of this legislation may be to limit public access to a vast range of library resources, far beyond the bill's intended scope.

Thank you for considering my testimony.