

To: House Judiciary Committee

Regarding: SB 2360

As a 16 year volunteer at a small community public library as well as a mother and grandmother, I have been following the legislative process of SB 2360 closely . I have reviewed the State Statute Chapter 12.1-27.1 Obscenity Control and the changes SB 2360 proposes.

This Chapter is a part of a public library's consideration when selecting books for its collection, along with written reviews, popular demand, timeliness and accuracy, and patron requests. Some adult books such as romance novels, murder mystery or suspense novels, and biographies include a romantic or sex related scene as a part of their story.

I am concerned that the added language in this Chapter puts public libraries in no-win position when selecting books for its collection. The proposed language "*contains depictions or written descriptions of nude or partially nude...*" coupled with item (7) "*sexual activity*" in Definitions leads to a very subjective interpretation that puts librarians and books at risk.

Additionally, the language added in Definitions 1. says "the exposed cover or available content of which *either contains explicit sexual material that is harmful to minors or exploits...*". Again, very subjective. Do public libraries need to have a gate and required proof of age at their adult section to avoid being charged with an offense based on someone's opinion? Shouldn't anyone who objects to material in the library first be expected to use the library's Reconsideration of Materials process before threatening legal charges?

I hope you can see how troubled we are with the ambiguity of this bill's proposal for language changes and how vulnerable we feel with its subjectivity.

At minimum I propose that in the list of Descriptions, 2.a. item (7) "*sexual activity*" be removed and let the other more specific definitions of explicit sexual behavior stand. Plus, I propose to remove the "*either contains explicit sexual material that is harmful to minors*".

Preferably I propose that you veto this bill and let the current language of Chapter 12.1-27.1 – Obscenity Control stand as is.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Lisa Anderson