

# SB 25-063: LIBRARY RESOURCE DECISION STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Fiscal note status: The revised fiscal note reflects the rengrossed bill.

#### **Summary Information**

**Overview.** The bill requires public school libraries to establish procedures regarding the removal of resources and creates certain protections for school librarians.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

• Minimal State Workload

• School Districts

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

#### Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

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## **Summary of Legislation**

The bill requires local school boards and the Charter School Institute (CSI) in the Colorado Department of Education to establish policies for the acquisition, retention, and display of school library resources, and for removing any materials from circulation. The bill requires certain elements to be included in these policies, including protecting against harassment and discrimination, as well as that the policy comply with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court in Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico.

If a local school board or the CSI adopts a written policy for the reconsideration of a library resource, that policy must be made available to the public. A person who requests that a material be removed from circulation must be a parent of a student who attends the school. Neither a local school board nor the CSI can reconsider the removal of the same material more than once every two years. Any request to remove materials is an open record under the Colorado Open Records Act.

The bill protects school librarians and volunteers from retaliation, demotion, discipline, or termination for refusing to remove material from circulation for any resource that is not removed in accordance with board policy.

## **State Revenue and Expenditures**

#### **Department of Education**

The State Librarian in the Department of Education may provide technical assistance to local school boards and the CSI for compliance with the bill. This workload will begin in the current FY 2024-25 and can be accomplished within existing resources.

### **Judicial Department**

The bill may result in additional civil lawsuits from claims of discrimination on behalf of school librarians who refuse to remove materials from circulation. Any increase in fee revenue or workload for the Judicial Department is assumed to be minimal.

## **School District**

School boards will update their policies and procedures to comply with the bill. If the bill results in additional time spent to consider removing resources from circulation based on parent challenges, workload will increase for the school board to determine if the material may be removed based on policy.

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## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

# **State and Local Government Contacts**

Early Childhood	Law
Education	School Districts
Judicial	

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the <u>General Assembly website</u>.