

HB 3311 -- RIGHT TO READ IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

SPONSOR: Thomas

This bill requires that school districts adopt a collection development and maintenance policy, a library program and display policy, and a library material review and reconsideration policy to ensure that all library resources are evaluated and made accessible. The bill provides standards that the policies must meet, including 1st Amendment protections and protections from harassment and discrimination.

School boards may remove a library resource from the collection only after a review according to policy. Districts must follow guidelines required in the policy for reconsideration. Complaints will be limited to those made by a student, staff member, or parent or guardian of a student of the school.

The bill provides for a review committee composed of a principal, librarian, classroom teacher, department head in the subject area of the material, and a community member to evaluate, read, and make recommendations on resource removal within 60 days of a request. Once a decision has been made, material may not be subject for review for four years.

The policy on displays and programs must not limit or censor for doctrinal or partisan reason. Requests for material reconsideration are to be made public. Protections are provided for staff members following the policy process.