



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Proposed Bill No. 523

LCO No. 885



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

SEN. MAHER, 26th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CURATION AND RETENTION OF LITERARY MATERIALS CONTAINED IN PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS AFFORDED TO LIBRARIANS AND STAFF WORKING IN SUCH LIBRARIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to (1) prohibit public and school
- 2 libraries from excluding or censoring books because of the origin,
- 3 background or views of the material or of its authors, or solely because
- 4 a person finds such books offensive; (2) require local school boards and
- 5 the governing bodies of public libraries to set up policies for book
- 6 curation and the removal of library materials, including a way to
- 7 address concerns over certain items; (3) provide a librarian and other
- 8 library staff member with immunity from criminal and civil liability
- 9 arising from good faith actions performed pursuant to state law; and (4)
- 10 provide a civil cause of action to a librarian and other library staff
- 11 member for emotional distress, defamation, libel, slander, damage to
- 12 reputation or any other relevant tort, against any person who harasses
- 13 a librarian or library staff member from compliance with state law.

Statement of Purpose:

To protect state residents by prohibiting public and school libraries from censoring books and providing librarians and other library staff members with legal protections, including immunity from criminal and civil liability, for carrying out work-related duties in accordance with state law.