

Austin Library Commission
27 Feb 2023

Update: Legislative Issues Working Group

members: Comm. Rosenthal (chair), Comm. Dwyer, Comm. Masters, Chair Smith

Today's Report

Compiled bills from multiple sources:

- Presentation from TLA at Nov 2022 regular commission meeting
- Texas Library Association: Library-Related Issues
<https://txla.org/advocacy/texas-legislative-session/library-related-issues/>
- Keyword search of Texas Legislature Online
<https://capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx>
- City staff tracking bills list

Bills of concern with possible adverse impact to public libraries have been selected, sorted and grouped

Tonight: review summary of bills, discuss next steps

Bills of Concern (1/3)

Relating to affirmative defense on obscene materials:

- HB 111, HB 976, HB 437 **
- HB 151 **
- HB 552, HB 571, HB 858, HB 869 **
- SB 395 **
- SB 1007, HB 2602

Increases risk to our library and staff for circulating controversial library material

Some or all bills on the ** marked rows have been referred to committee

Action recommended on this issue

Bills of Concern (2/3)

Relating to increased punishments for obscene materials:

- HB 1253
- HB 1408

Increases risk to our library and staff for circulating controversial library material

None of these bills have been referred to committee

Recommendation: monitor for movement

Bills of Concern (3/3)

Relating to drag performance:

- HB 643, HB 708, HB 1266, SB 476

Concern of impact to library programming and participation

These bills have been referred to committee

The current language would not impact public libraries: pertains to venues that are adult entertainment or a "commercial enterprise")

Recommendation: monitor for change

Recommended Next Steps

- Continued monitoring of all bills
- Consider resolution regarding the "affirmative defense" bills at our March regular meeting
- Coordinate with city staff and TLA on these issues