

Austin Library Commission
27 Mar 2023

Update: Legislative Issues Working Group

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

Bill Tracking

- All bills reported last month have been assigned to committee and pending hearing.
 - Majority of these deal with removing educational affirmative defense or increasing penalties
- SB 1601 has been filed and is moving
 - Denies state funds to public libraries that hosts an event incorporating "drag"
 - Public hearing held in Senate State Affairs, left pending
- Several bills relating to school libraries have been filed
 - House and Senate bills impose various restrictions on student access to materials
 - Bills target “obscene” or sexually explicit materials
 - Some put requirements on TEA and TSLAC to create and review standards
 - Some require publishers to certify or label their materials

Several bills related to school library materials

- SB 13 - Priority bill, among other things, would create advisory boards to oversee school library materials
- SB 1443 - Restricts a wide variety of library materials and performances
- SB 420 - Requires parental notification when students check out materials
- HB 900 - Priority bill prohibits student access to “sexually relevant” materials
- HB 231 - Requires vendors certify safety of online materials
- HB 2875/HB 2736 - Requires vendor certification of student materials in any library
- HB 338 - Requires publishers provide content ratings for books

Proposed Actions

- Consider resolution on bills related to distribution of prohibited materials
- Possible future action on SB 1601 (drag bill)