

November 28, 2022



Legislative Update

Austin Library Commission

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Current Climate

NEWS > EDUCATION

Texas leads nation in school book bans, new report shows

More than 800 books removed in the past year, free speech advocates find.

EDUCATION

Frisco ISD reviewing 1 million books to find 'obscene' ones

U.S. • EDUCATION

Public Libraries Face Threats to Funding and Collections as Book Bans Surge

THE EDUCATION ISSUE

How Book Bans Turned a Texas Town Upside Down

In a political environment where book-banning efforts are being used to drive voter sentiment, librarians find themselves on the front lines.

Texas Librarians Face Harassment as They Navigate Book Bans

As communities and school districts push for book bans, some Texas librarians are nearing their breaking point

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Texans for the Right to Read

RightToReadTexas.com #RightToReadTX



The Interim

House Charges

- Parent Empowerment
- Broadband and Telecommunications
- COVID Impact on Learning Loss and Mental Health
- Assessments and Accountability Update
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Higher Ed-K-12 Partnerships

Senate Charges

- Parent Empowerment
- School Library Advisory Council Review
- Faculty Tenure
- U.S. History Requirements (higher education)
- Taxpayer Funded Lobbying
- HB 5 Broadband Implementation

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Photo by [Trac Vu](#) on [Unsplash](#)



TLA's Legislative Vision

To empower Texas libraries to build essential community infrastructure by focusing our efforts on:

- Access
- Education
- Economic Development

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Texas State Library & Archives Commission

\$69.7 million budget request; plus, five exceptional items

TLA priority given to exceptional item #4

- \$4.4 million to provide local IT support and broadband readiness to small, rural libraries

HB 540 by Longoria, relating to the award of library construction grants by the Texas State Library & Archives Commission; companion SB 197 by Eckhardt

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Bills Related to Content

- **HB 552** by Troxclair, relating to repealing the affirmative defense to prosecution for the criminal offense of sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor
- **HB 571** by Leo-Wilson, relating to repealing the affirmative defense to prosecution for the criminal offense of sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor



Bills Related to Content

- **HB 338** by Oliverson, relating to content ratings for books and other written materials used in public schools
- **HB 231** by Swanson, relating to the purchase of online library resources for primary and secondary schools by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission

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Bills Related to Parental Rights

- **SB 165** by Campbell, relating to parental rights in public education and to audits of school district curricula by the Texas Education Agency
- **HB 631** by Toth, relating to parental rights in education

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Thank you

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