General Assembly

# *Raised Bill No. 5417*

*February Session, 2024*

LCO No. **2657**

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

## *AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.*

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Library material" means books, periodicals or any other sources, in print or nonprint format, available for reference purposes or to be circulated for voluntary inquiry by students. "Library material" does not include materials required as a part of classroom instruction;

(2) "Remove" means deliberately taking library material out of a library's collection. "Remove" does not include the process of clearing such collection of any materials that are no longer useful; and

(3) "Restrict access" means placing library material in any manner to limit circulation or accessibility.

(b) Each local or regional board of education shall provide a reason if such board removes or restricts access to any library material belonging to the collection of a school library or media center. No board shall remove or restrict access to library material for any of the following:

(1) Partisan approval or disapproval of any library material by the board;

(2) An author's race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation or political or religious views;

(3) Personal discomfort, morality or political or religious views of a member or members of the board;

(4) An author's points of view concerning current events, whether international, national or local;

(5) The race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation or political or religious views of a protagonist or other characters or as otherwise represented in the library material; or

(6) The content of the library material is related to sexual health and addresses physical, mental, emotional or social dimensions of human sexuality, including, but not limited to, puberty, sex and relationships.

| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
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| Section 1 | *July 1, 2024* | New section |

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require local and regional boards of education to state a reason for removing or restricting access to public school library materials and prohibiting such boards from removing or restricting access to such materials for certain reasons.

***[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]***