



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2025

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Texas House Passes Bill to Protect Children from Sexually Explicit Material in Municipal Public Libraries

Earlier today the Texas House passed House Bill (HB) 3225 to require municipal public libraries to move books containing depictions of sexually explicit conduct out of sections of the library intended for minors and into the general adult sections.

“This bill isn’t complicated and shouldn’t be controversial,” said Representative Daniel Alders (R-Tyler), the author of HB 3225. “Our libraries should be a safe place for our families where parents can feel comfortable letting their children explore age-appropriate literature. This bill simply ensures that our taxpayer-funded libraries are fostering such learning environments.”

Under the provisions of the bill, libraries are required to relocate sexually explicit material away from sections for minors and prohibit them from checking out the material in physical or digital formats. Libraries must conduct an annual review of all new materials curated for a minor’s section, as well as any specific materials upon request.

The bill was amended on the floor based on input from libraries to ensure that HB 3225 establishes clear guidelines that are simple and practical to implement. This includes a clarification on the limits to access and age-verification guidelines, as well as adding in a parental consent mechanism and revising the review process requirements.

If a municipal public library violates the policy, they will not qualify for additional grant funding from the state and are liable for a penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation under the prosecution of the attorney general.

This legislation builds upon the efforts of the Texas Legislature in recent years to protect minors from sexually explicit content in public schools and online.

HB 3225 now moves to the Senate, where Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Tyler) is sponsoring the legislation.

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