

LWVLA Library Freedom Bills/Instruments 2024 Legislative Session (updated 5/4/2024)

Committee	Bill Number	Author, Party & District	Summary	LWVLA Position
House Municipal, Parochial, and Cultural Affairs	HB 168	Josh Carlson (R-Lafayette)	<p>LIBRARIES: Provides relative to qualifications for certified librarians</p> <p><i>Recommended reading:</i> https://lwvofla.org/CBS_FILES/DOCS/LibraryFreedomResolutionAndNarrative.pdf</p> <p>https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/accruitedprograms/faq#:~:text=Most%20employers%20require%20an%20ALA,in%20public%20or%20school%20libraries</p> <p>https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/requirements_to_become_a_librarian_by_state</p> <p>https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/education/paths/librarian</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>This bill serves to de-professionalize librarians and libraries in ways that contravene the LWVLA’s March 2023 resolution on “Library Freedoms: Censorship and Civic Space”. Failure to require or subsidize the maintenance qualifications that are the professional standard in the field of library and information sciences will make Louisiana public libraries unable to attract the best librarians in the field to their systems and to keep them up to date in the field. Libraries will be deprived of the best personnel and best program ideas to the detriment of the communities they are to serve.</p>
House Administration of Criminal Justice	HB 414	Josh Carlson (R-Lafayette)	<p>CRIME/OBSCENITY: Provides relative to the applicability of the crime of obscenity pertaining to public libraries.</p> <p><i>Recommended reading:</i> https://lwvofla.org/CBS_FILES/DOCS/LibraryFreedomResolutionAndNarrative.pdf</p> <p>https://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/oif/LBOR-FTR-statement-pamphlet</p> <p>https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/posing_attempts_policy_brief_2023</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>This bill maliciously libels public librarians by suggesting that they are in the business of providing obscene materials, especially to children, in a way that is meant to diminish public support for libraries and to censor materials in ways that violate the fundamental freedoms of speech, artistic expression, and access to information. The bill also contravenes the LWVLA’s March 2023 resolution on “Library Freedoms: Censorship and Civic Space”</p>

			https://www.everylibrary.org/state_obscenity_laws_23-24	
Administration of Criminal Justice	HB 545	Beryl Amedee (R-Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, Terrebone)	<p>CRIME: Provides relative to certain materials in public school libraries</p> <p><i>Recommended reading:</i> https://lwvofla.org/CBS_FILES/DOCS/LibraryFreedomResolutionAndNarrative.pdf</p> <p>https://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/oif/LBOR-FTR-statement-pamphlet</p> <p>https://standards.aasl.org/</p> <p>https://www.ala.org/advocacy/school-libraries</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>This bill is intended to censor reading and other materials to students in ways that violate the fundamental freedoms of speech, artistic expression, and young people’s access to information. The bill also contravenes the LWVLA’s March 2023 resolution on “Library Freedoms: Censorship and Civic Space”</p>
House Municipal, Parochial, and Cultural Affairs	HB 640	Jay Galle (R-St. Tammany)	<p>LIBRARIES: Provides relative to members of library boards of control</p> <p>Authorizes the governing authority of any parish or municipality to remove any member of its respective library board control at any time, with or without cause.</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>Parish and municipal authorities should appoint library board members through a fair and open process accessible to public comment and participation. The removal of a library board member should follow similar processes and standards and be accessible to public comment and review. To the extent that this bill is likely to introduce instability and arbitrariness into the retention of library board member it operates to undercut and destabilize public library systems in ways that contravene the LWVLA’s March 2023 resolution on “Library Freedoms: Censorship and Civic Space”</p>
	HB777	Kellee Dickerson	LIBRARIES: Provides relative to the use of public funds	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>The American Library Association</p>

		(R-East Baton Rouge, Livingston)	Prohibits a public official or employee from expending public funds to or with the American Library Assoc. Further prohibits a public employee from requesting or receiving reimbursement or remuneration in any form for continuing education or for attending a conference if the continuing education or conference was sponsored or conducted, in whole or in part, by the American Library Assoc. Proposed law provides that a person who violates proposed law shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both.	<p>is the preeminent professional association of librarians in the U.S. and an accreditor of the highest quality library science and information studies association. It is a venue for continuing education and professional development for librarians, a profession that is predominantly but not exclusively female and thus impacts women's well-being. Most importantly, it is a national resource for librarians to learn of the latest information technology and civic programs to bring back to their communities.</p> <p>The prohibition on use of public funds, including the use of librarians paid time to attend ALA meetings would devalue librarians as a profession and diminish the programming for their communities. One could easily imagine the legislature extending the prohibition to extend to private sources of funding, as has been done with private election funding via a poorly understood constitutional amendment just last year. The criminal penalization, including the possibility of imprisonment at hard labor for pursuing professional development and the ability to do one's civil service and public interest work is laughable on its face.</p>
House Education	HB974	Josh Carlson (R-Lafayette)	LIBRARIES: Provides relative to qualifications for library directors	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>This bill serves to deprofessionalize librarians and libraries in ways that contravene the LWVLA's March 2023 resolution on "Library Freedoms: Censorship and Civic</p>

				<p>Space”. Failure to require or subsidize the maintenance qualifications that are the professional standard in the field of library and information sciences will make Louisiana public libraries unable to attract the best librarians in the field to their systems and to keep them up-to-date in the field. Libraries will be deprived of the best personnel and best program ideas to the detriment of the communities they are to serve.</p>
--	--	--	--	---