

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair
2023-2024 Regular Session

AB 1825 (Muratsuchi)
Version: June 18, 2024
Hearing Date: July 2, 2024
Fiscal: Yes
Urgency: No
AWM

SUBJECT

California Freedom to Read Act

DIGEST

This bill requires the governing board or body of each public library in the state that receives state funding, excluding school libraries, to adopt a written and publicly available collection development policy, and prohibits the governing board or body of a public library from proscribing or prohibiting the circulation of any materials in a public library because of the topic addressed by the materials or because of the views, ideas, or opinions contained in those materials, as specified.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The American Library Association, which tracks data on book bans nationwide, reports that 2023 saw a 93 percent increase over 2022 in the titles targeted for censorship at public libraries. The focus on public libraries represents a tactical shift – prior to 2023, book-banning efforts had been predominately focused on books in school libraries. The top 10 most-challenged books of 2023 mostly involve LGBTQ themes, a trend that has been consistent over the past several years. Attempted book bans are not as common in California as they are in other states, but the last few years have nevertheless seen a marked increase. Additionally, certain local governments have adopted policies to override librarians’ discretion and restrict access to books based on ill-defined community standards.

This bill is intended to preserve Californians’ First Amendment right to access a variety of opinions and ideas at public libraries, and to ensure that librarians’ professional judgment is not overridden by groups on the basis of hostility towards certain types of content. The author has agreed to amend the bill to clarify provisions of the bill and ensure that librarian discretion is preserved.

This bill is sponsored by the author and is supported by 20 organizations, including the California Library Association and the California LGBTQ Caucus. This bill is opposed by Carlsbad Citizens for Community Oversight, the Coalition of Latino Pastors, Our Duty, and Real Impact. The Senate Education Committee passed this bill with a vote of 5-0.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW

Existing constitutional law:

- 1) Provides that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances. (U.S. Const., 1st amend. (the First Amendment) & 14th amends.; *see Gitlow v. People of State of New York* (1925) 268 U.S. 652, 666 (First Amendment guarantees apply to the states through the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment).)
- 2) Provides that every person may freely speak, write, and publish their sentiments on all subjects, and that a law may not restrain or abridge liberty of speech. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 2.)

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes the California Library Services Act, which assists public libraries in improving service to the underserved of all ages, and by enabling public libraries to provide their users with the services and resources of all libraries in this state. (Ed. Code, tit. 1, div. 1, p. 11, ch. 4, §§ 18700 et seq.)
- 2) Defines the following relevant terms:
 - a) "Jurisdiction" means a county, city and county, city, or any district that is authorized by law to provide public library services and that operates a public library.
 - b) "Public library" means a library, or two or more libraries, that is operated by a single public jurisdiction and that serves its residents free of charge. (Ed. Code, § 18710.)
- 3) States that, in adopting the California Library Services Act, the policy shall be as follows:
 - a) To reaffirm the principle of local control of the government and administration of public libraries, and to affirm that the provisions of this chapter apply only to libraries authorized by their jurisdictions to participate in the programs authorized by the California Library Services Act.
 - b) To require no library, as a condition for receiving funds or services under the California Library Services Act, to acquire or exclude any specific book,

- periodical, film, recording, picture, or any other material, or any specific equipment, or to acquire or exclude any classification of books or other materials by author, subject matter, or type.
- c) To encourage the adequate financing of libraries from local sources, with state aid to be furnished to supplement, not supplant, local funds.
 - d) To encourage service to the underserved of all ages.
 - e) To encourage and enable the sharing of resources between libraries.
 - f) To ensure public participation in carrying out the intent of the California Library Services Act. (Ed. Code, § 18703.)
- 4) Authorizes the legislative body of any city in the state to establish a public library for the municipality, if there is not already a library established therein, that shall be forever free to the inhabitants and nonresident taxpayers of the municipality. (Ed. Code, tit. 1, div. 1, pt. 11, ch. 5, §§ 19400 et seq.)
- 5) Authorizes the board of supervisors of a county to establish and maintain a county free library, which shall be under the supervision of a county librarian appointed by the board; the county librarian must both (1) be a graduate of a graduate library school program accredited by the American Library Association, and (2) demonstrate knowledge of principles and practices of public administration, including county government, and of the laws applicable to library services in this state. (Ed. Code, tit. 1, div. 1, pt. 11, ch. 6, §§ 19100 et seq.)

This bill:

- 1) Establishes the California Freedom to Read Act (Act).
- 2) Defines “public library jurisdiction” as a county, city and county, city, or any district that is authorized by law to provide public library services and that operates a public library.
- 3) Provides that the Act applies to a public library, as defined, including any public library operated on a contractual basis, or by a city, including a general law or charter city, county, special district, or joint powers authority; the Act does not apply to a school library, as defined, or a library operated by the governing board of a school district, or county board of education, or the governing body of a charter school.
- 4) States that the Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
 - a) Libraries are essential for information, education, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves.
 - b) Libraries provide access to books that offer teachable moments for readers of all ages and expand our understanding of people with different backgrounds, ideas, and beliefs.

- c) A person's right to use a library should not be denied solely because of personal characteristics, age, background, or views.
 - d) Removing and banning books from public libraries are dangerous acts of government censorship and erode our country's commitment to freedom of expression and the right to receive information.
 - e) Librarians are professionals trained to not impose their own thoughts and opinions on which ideas are right, but to make knowledge and ideas available so that people have the freedom to choose what to read.
 - f) Librarians and library staff receive extensive professional training to develop and curate collections to meet the broad and diverse interests of their communities, which include, but are not limited to, literary value and developmental appropriateness of material.
- 5) Requires every public library jurisdiction that directly receives any state funding to establish, adopt, and maintain a written and publicly accessible collection development policy for its public libraries by January 1, 2026, and to submit that collection development policy to the State Librarian; the State Librarian or their designee may provide technical assistance to public libraries in developing their collection development policy in order to ensure compliance with the Act.
- 6) Requires a collection development policy developed under 3) to do all of the following, at a minimum:
- a) Establish a process for community members to share their concerns regarding library materials and to request that library materials be reconsidered for inclusion in the library's collection.
 - b) Guide the selection and deselection of printed and electronic resources.
 - c) Acknowledge that the public library's collection meets the broad and diverse interests of the community and respect both the library's autonomy and their specific needs.
 - d) Establish that the public library serves as a center for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas.
 - e) Establish that library materials shall not be excluded from the library collection because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to the creation of the materials, or because of the topic addressed by the materials or the views or opinions expressed in the materials.
 - f) Acknowledge that library materials should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people, and should present diverse points of view in the collection as a whole.
 - g) Acknowledge the right of the public to receive access to a range of social, political, aesthetic, moral, and other ideas and experiences.
- 7) Provides that a librarian, library media specialist, or other employee, or contractor at a public library, shall not be subject to termination, demotion, discipline, or retaliation for either of the following:

- a) Refusing to remove a library material before it has been reviewed in accordance with the public library's process for the reconsideration of library materials established pursuant to 3).
 - b) Making displays, acquisitions, or programming decisions that the employee or contractor believes, in good faith, are in accordance with the requirements of this section.
- 8) Prohibits the governing board or body of a public library from proscribing or prohibiting the circulation or procurement of any book, audio, film, instructional, or other resource in a public library because of the topic addressed by the materials or because of the views, ideas, or opinions contained in those materials.
 - 9) Provides that the discretion to determine the content of materials in public libraries shall not be exercised in a manner that discriminates against or excludes materials based on race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, political affiliation, or socioeconomic status, on the basis that the materials under consideration contain inclusive and diverse perspectives, or on the basis that the materials may include sexual content, unless that content qualifies as obscene under United States Supreme Court precedent.
 - 10) Requires any decision by a public library to remove a book to conform to the requirements of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Section 2 of Article I of the California Constitution.
 - 11) Prohibits the governing board or body of a public library from creating policies or procedures that limit or restrict access to books and other resources offered by the public library, unless the policies or procedures are adopted to preserve the safety or security of the library's materials, are time, place, and manner restrictions not based on the content of materials, or are programs that provide for the effective management of the library and its resources to preserve access for all library users.
 - 12) Provides that a person's right to use a public library and its resources shall not be denied or abridged solely because of personal characteristics, age, background, or views.
 - 13) Provides that all people, regardless of personal characteristics, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in the materials they borrow from libraries.
 - 14) States that the Legislature finds and declares that ensuring libraries are free of censorship is a matter of statewide concern and not a municipal affair, as defined; therefore, the Act applies to all cities, including charter cities.

COMMENTS

1. Author's comment

According to the author:

Libraries provide access to books that offer teachable moments for readers of all ages and expand our understanding of people with different backgrounds, ideas, and beliefs. Removing and banning books from public libraries is a dangerous step to government censorship and the erosion of our country's commitment to freedom of expression. AB 1825, the California Freedom to Read Act, protects the fundamental right of access to diverse and inclusive books and library materials.

2. Public libraries are essential to our communities

Public libraries are often called “the great equalizer.” “Libraries are physical spaces belonging to a community where we gather to share information. There isn't anywhere else that fits that description.”¹ Benjamin Franklin was behind the first public lending library in the country, and tax-supported libraries have been around since 1833.² The ability to access books and other reading materials for free can be literally life-changing.

Public libraries are so much more than providers of reading material – as the Sacramento Public Library puts it, “Books are just the beginning.” Local public libraries in the state provide an incredible range of services, including reading classes for adults, practice citizenship exams, power tool rentals, free COVID-19 at-home tests, cooling centers, homework help, assistance with job and permit applications, veteran services, 3-D printing, and even mobile preschool. And “[i]n times of trouble, libraries are sanctuaries. They become town squares and community centers – even blood-draw locations.”³

Librarians are the heart and soul of public libraries. A librarian is a “[t]echnology expert, information detective, manager, literacy expert, trainer, community programming coordinator, reader's advisor, children's storyteller, material reviewer, and buyer.”⁴ Librarians “understand[] that books can be like medicine and therapy, and while they can't transport you to a calmer home, they can make that home much more

¹ Orlean, *The Library Book* (2018) p. 299.

² DPLA, *A History of US Public Libraries: First Public Libraries*, <https://dp.la/exhibitions/history-us-public-libraries/beginnings/first-public-libraries>. All links in this analysis are current as of June 27, 2024.

³ *Id.* at pp. 76-77.

⁴ American Library Association, *Public Libraries*, <https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/libcareers/type/public>.

bearable.”⁵ Librarians literally save lives: librarians now serve as first responders in the opioid crisis, administering Narcan to patrons who have overdosed.⁶

3. Book bans, and book ban demands, are on the rise

The American Library Association, which tracks data on book bans nationwide, reports that 2023 saw a 93 percent increase over 2022 in the titles targeted for censorship at public libraries.⁷ The focus on public libraries represents a tactical shift – prior to 2023, book-banning efforts had been predominately focused on books in school libraries.⁸ The surge in book-ban demands has come in large part from groups and individuals demanding that multiple titles, “often dozens or hundreds,” be banned at once.⁹ The top 10 most-challenged books of 2023 mostly involve LGBTQ themes, a trend that has been consistent over the past several years;¹⁰ other books that have made the top 10 in the last two decades include Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*, Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*, Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, and Dav Pilkey’s *Captain Underpants* series.¹¹ *Captain Underpants* is in good company: Kurt Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse Five*,¹² James Joyce’s *Ulysses*,¹³ and, because irony is dead, George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*¹⁴ have all been targeted for censorship.

While California is not a censorship juggernaut like Florida (33 demands attempting to restrict access to 2,672 books) or Texas (49 demands attempting to restrict access 1,470 books), California did see 52 demands to restrict access to 98 books in 2023.¹⁵ And as noted by the author, a few locations within the state have made a concerted effort to restrict access to books. In Huntington Beach, the City Council required librarians at the

⁵ Hudson, *Thank you to...the librarian who saved my life before I knew it needed saving*, *The Guardian* (Dec. 29, 2019), <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/dec/29/librarian-saved-my-life-thank-you>.

⁶ E.g., Freudenberger, *Not Just Narcan*, *Library Journal* (May 7, 2029), <https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/Not-Just-Narcan>.

⁷ American Library Association, *Book Ban Data*, <https://www.ala.org/bbooks/book-ban-data>.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ See American Library Association, *Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2023*, <https://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10>; American Library Association, *Top 10 Most Challenged Books and Frequently Challenged Books Archive*, <https://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10/archive>.

¹¹ American Library Association, *Top 10 Most Challenged Books and Frequently Challenged Books Archive*, *supra*.

¹² *Board of Education v. Pico* (1982) 457 U.S. 853, 856, fn. 3.

¹³ See *U.S. v. One Book Called "Ulysses"* (S.D.N.Y. 1933) 5 F.Supp. 182, *affd. sub. nom. U.S. v. One Book Entitled Ulysses by James Joyce* (2d Cir. 1934) 72 F.2d 705. The court expressed its appreciation that the parties elected a bench trial, because “on account of the length of ‘Ulysses’ and the difficulty of reading it, a jury trial would have been an extremely unsatisfactory, if not an almost impossible method of dealing with it.” (*Id.* at p. 183.)

¹⁴ See Butler University Irwin Library, *Banned Books: Commonly Banned Books* (last updated Jun. 12, 2024), <https://libguides.butler.edu/c.php?g=34189&p=217684>.

¹⁵ American Library Association, *Censorship by the Numbers*, <https://www.ala.org/bbooks/censorship-numbers>.

Huntington Beach Central Library to place children's books that "contain content of a sexual nature" into a restricted adult section; titles reviewed as potentially dangerous include *Everyone Poops* and several *American Girl* books.¹⁶ The Huntington Beach City Council is also moving forward with a 21-member "community library board" to "review books for sexual content to be either removed from the children's section or not purchased at all."¹⁷ Fresno County is also in the middle of establishing a "library committee" to determine which books do not comport with (yet-to-be-determined) "community standards" for books; books found guilty of heterodoxy will be inaccessible to minors – the restriction does not distinguish between 7-year-olds and 17-year-olds – except with express parental permission.¹⁸

The moral panic surrounding minors' access to library books raises the question of whether, in terms of minors' access to content, library books are the proverbial deck chairs on the Titanic. It is unclear what children will find in libraries that they could not find more easily, and probably more explicitly, online.

4. The First Amendment prohibits content-based censorship at public libraries

As noted above, most of today's book-banning demands are centered around books accessible to minors that include LGBTQ themes or sexual content. The rationale seems to be that minors are somehow harmed if they learn about different sexualities and genders, or that sexuality exists, and the only way to protect children is to limit access to any book with a hint of suggestive content.¹⁹ The First Amendment, however, does not countenance such sweeping restrictions.

The First Amendment protects, among other things, the right to speak.²⁰ A corollary to that right is "the right to receive information and ideas."²¹ This right to receive information and ideas, regardless of their social worth, is fundamental to our free society," not to mention which is essential to the right to be free from "unwarranted governmental intrusions into one's privacy."²²

¹⁶ Szabo, *Huntington Beach City Council votes down item seeking transparency in children's book restrictions*, L.A. Times (Feb. 21, 2024), available at <https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2024-02-21/huntington-beach-city-council-votes-against-item-seeking-transparency-in-childrens-book-restriction>.

¹⁷ Slaten, *Huntington Beach approves rules for children's books review board*, Orange County Register (Mar. 21, 2024), available at <https://www.ocregister.com/2024/03/21/huntington-beach-approves-rules-for-childrens-book-review-board/?clearUserState=true>.

¹⁸ Parsons, *At least 101 people want to be on Fresno County's new library book review committee*, fresnoland (May 17, 2024), <https://fresnoland.org/2024/05/17/fresno-library-committee/>.

¹⁹ Think Helen Lovejoy meets Anita Bryant.

²⁰ U.S. Const., 1st amend.; see also Cal. Const., art. I, § 2.

²¹ *Stanley v. Georgia* (1969) 394 U.S. 557, 564.

²² *Ibid.* While the United States Constitution does not expressly grant a right to privacy, the California Constitution does just that. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 1.)

Consistent with this approach, federal courts have rejected recent efforts to remove books from libraries due to their supposedly objectionable content.²³ For example, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit recently upheld an injunction ordering several books to be returned to the shelves after being pulled for supposedly inappropriate content.²⁴ The court recognized that librarians' curation decisions "must be balanced against patrons' First Amendment rights," such that "a book may not be removed for the sole—or a substantial—reason that a decisionmaker does not wish patrons to be able to access the book's viewpoint or message."²⁵

Of course, if an individual parent wishes to monitor the materials their child checks out from the library, they are free to do so on their own time. As many library policies point out, libraries do not stand in loco parentis and do not assume responsibility for parenting decisions.²⁶ What parents—or other adults—are not permitted to do, consistent with the First Amendment, is to force the removal of materials from a library entirely, or to restrict access to materials for everyone else's children.

5. This bill is intended to protect libraries from attacks on the right to read

This bill is a response to efforts to remove, or restrict access to, content in public libraries. There are four main components of the bill.

First, the bill requires any public library jurisdiction that receives state funding to adopt a written, publicly available collection development policy by January 1, 2026. The policy must address specified topics, including the selection and deselection of materials, the process available for community members to share concerns regarding library materials, and acknowledge the right of the public to receive access to a range of materials and viewpoints. A library may seek technical assistance from the State Librarian in crafting the policy.

Second, the bill provides that a librarian, library media specialist, other employee of the library, or contractor may not be terminated or subjected to other adverse action for refusing to remove library material before it has been reviewed through the deselection process, or for making displays, acquisitions, or programming decisions that they believe, in good faith, comply with the requirements of this bill.

²³ See, e.g., *GLBT Youth in Iowa Schools Task Force v. Reynolds* (S.D. Iowa, Dec. 29, 2023) — F.Supp.3d — 2023 WL 9052113; *Fayetteville Public Library v. Crawford County, Arkansas* (W.D.Ar. 2023) 684 F.Supp.3d 879.

²⁴ *Little v. Llano County* (5th Cir., June 6, 2024) — F.4th ---, 2024 WL 2860213. The supposedly offensive material included "[s]even 'butt and fart' books," "two books about the history of racism in the United States," and Maurice Sendak's *In the Night Kitchen*. (*Id.* at p. 2.)

²⁵ *Id.* at p. *5.

²⁶ E.g., Belvedere Tiburon Library, Collection Development Policy (Oct. 2023), p. 1; Ontario Library Materials Selection Policy (Apr. 2021), p. 2.

Third, this bill provides that the governing body of a library may not prescribe or prohibit the circulation of library materials on the basis of the content of those materials. Similarly, the bill provides that the discretion to determine content shall be exercised in a manner that discriminates on the bases of certain topics. The author has agreed to amendments to clarify these provisions, to ensure that they meet constitutional muster. These amendments include deleting a provision stating that a decision to remove a book shall comply with the First Amendment and the California Constitution; it goes without saying that a library or librarian cannot take unconstitutional action.

Fourth, the bill makes clear that the library's policies do not prevent the library from making reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, or removing materials in the normal course of business (e.g., because a book is damaged or out-of-date). The author has agreed to amendments to clarify these provisions.

As this bill has worked its way through the Legislature, the author has made amendments in response to opposition, including clarifying that the bill applies only to community public libraries, not school libraries. The author has agreed to additional amendments, set forth in Part 5, to ensure that the bill does not inadvertently constrain librarians' discretion to select or deaccess materials, as well as to clarify that the bill does not apply to non-content items accessible at a library (tools, laptops, etc.).

6. Amendments

As noted above, the author has agreed to certain amendments to clarify the bill and protect librarian discretion. The amendments:

- Add a definition of "library materials" covered by the bill, and exclude from the definition items such as tools and equipment that are not subject to the same First Amendment protections as books or other idea-conveying materials.
- Remove provisions of the bill that will prevent librarians from selecting materials for their communities and clarify that the bill does not apply to library maintenance and deaccession policies.
- Clarify that limitations on how the governing board or body of a public library may exclude content also apply to any body or commission that has been designated to review the procurement, retention, or circulation of, or access to, library materials; and clarify the bounds of these limitations.
- Remove an unnecessary reference to the First Amendment.

7. Arguments in support

According to the California Library Association (CLA):

CLA believes in protecting intellectual freedom, and we support the right of California library patrons to have access to a diverse body of materials that educate, inspire, inform, and enlighten. As such, CLA embraces the goal of AB

1825, which seeks to prevent the banning of books by requiring the creation of library collection development policies that respect the needs and interests of communities while offering the broadest range of library materials available. The bill also allows collection development policies to contain mechanisms that will enable the public to request reconsideration of the placement of certain materials in libraries.

Recent amendments clarify that the library directors and library staff will be authorized to create the individual library collection development policies, not city councils, county boards of supervisors, or other elected and appointed bodies, as the bill had recently indicated.

Public libraries are a trusted marketplace of ideas and information in communities. AB 1825 affirms an individual's right to view and read a diverse and unique collection of library materials. CLA thanks you for your consideration of AB 1825, as amended.

8. Arguments in opposition

According to Real Impact:

AB 1825 removes the local authority of a library's governing board by requiring all public libraries to adopt a policy modeled after the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights. The governing boards of public libraries should be encouraged to work with the surrounding community to determine what materials are appropriate for their local community. The bill states, "The discretion to determine the content of materials in public libraries shall not be exercised in a manner that discriminates against or excludes materials... on the basis that the materials may include sexual content, unless that content qualifies as obscene under United States Supreme Court precedent." This does not allow any room for the community to provide input on library materials but imposes standards that may not align with the local community. The state should allow library boards to work with the community to determine what is best for library patrons of all ages. AB 1825 blatantly ignores the local authority that library governing boards possess.

Additionally, the amendments added on June 18, 2024, provide broad protections for librarians who may promote events or create displays that are considered inappropriate by the community of library patrons. The bill states, "A librarian, library media specialist, other employee... shall not be subject to termination, demotion, discipline, or retaliation for... making displays, acquisitions, or programming decisions that the employee or contractor believes... are in accordance with the requirements of this section." These protections could provide immunity to a library employee who posts library

advertisements that are obscene and graphic to library patrons or parents of children who use the library.

SUPPORT

ACLU California Action
American Association of University Women of California
Authors Against Book Bans
Beach Cities Health District
California Democratic Party
California Faculty Association
California LGBTQ Caucus
California Library Association
California State PTA
California Women's Law Center
CFT
Diversify Our Narrative
El Camino College Gender Sexuality Alliance
El Camino College LGBTQIA+ Pride Center
Equality California
Generation Up
League of Women Voters of California
Los Angeles County Democratic Party
PFLAG Manhattan Beach/South Bay
The Sikh Coalition

OPPOSITION²⁷

Carlsbad Citizens for Community Oversight
Coalition of Latino Pastors
Our Duty
Real Impact
One individual

RELATED LEGISLATION

Pending legislation: SB 1435 (Ochoa Bogh, 2024) would have permitted any parent, guardian, or resident of a school district to sue a school district for injunctive and declaratory relief if a school library contained harmful materials, as defined. SB 1435 failed passage in the Senate Education Committee.

²⁷ With the exception of Real Impact and the individual opponent, the bill's opponents submitted their opposition to a prior version of the bill, and their letters express concern that the bill might be interpreted to apply to school libraries as well as community public libraries. The author has since amended those provisions to clarify the bill's scope.

Prior Legislation:

AB 1078 (Jackson, Ch. 229, Stats. 2023) made various changes to the adoption of instructional materials for use in schools, including a provision that would prohibit a governing board from disallowing the use of an existing textbook, other instructional material, or curriculum that contains inclusive and diverse perspectives, as specified.

AB 1809 (Committee on Budget, Ch. 33, Stats. 2018) removed the sunset on the library withdrawal procedures set forth in AB 438 and AB 583 (below).

AB 583 (Gomez, Ch. 196, Stats. 2013) clarified that the requirements of AB 483 (below) apply to a city or library district prior to its withdrawal from the county system, regardless of whether it intended to privatize at the time of withdrawal.

AB 438 (Williams, Ch. 611, Stats. 2011) imposed requirements, until January 1, 2019, on a city or library district that withdraws from a county free library system and operate libraries with a private contractor that will employ library staff to achieve cost savings.

PRIOR VOTES:

Senate Education Committee (Ayes 5, Noes 0)

Assembly Floor (Ayes 62, Noes 3)

Assembly Appropriations Committee (Ayes 12, Noes 1)

Assembly Judiciary Committee (Ayes 11, Noes 0)

Assembly Education Committee (Ayes 5, Noes 1)
