



**Maryland Commission  
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

**Bill Title:** Public Schools - Sexually Explicit Materials - Prohibited in Libraries and Media Centers

**Bill Number(s):** HB0282

**Position:** UNFAVORABLE

**Date:** January 17, 2025

**Submitted by:** Jeremy Browning, Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

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**To:**

House Ways and Means Committee

The Hon. Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
The Hon. Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair

**Testimony on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs:**

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, works to serve LGBTQIA+ Marylanders by galvanizing community voices, researching and addressing challenges, and advocating for policies that advance equity and inclusion. The Commission envisions a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. As a vital resource, the Commission collaborates with public officials, agencies, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected and respected.

On behalf of the Commission, we write to express strong opposition to House Bill 282, which seeks to prohibit sexually explicit materials in public elementary, middle, and secondary school libraries and media centers. While we share the common goal of ensuring a safe and age-appropriate learning environment for all students, we believe that existing laws, regulations, and processes already achieve this goal.

The current review process includes collection analysis, list generation and purchase recommendations, and administrative approvals before any material is purchased and added to school library collections. The Maryland Association of School Librarians has documented this thorough process in its [blog series](#), *"How Does a Book End Up in a School Library?"* at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Additionally, local school districts and librarians, in collaboration with educators and parents, have established rigorous review mechanisms to ensure alignment with educational standards and age-appropriateness. Adding an additional legislative layer may create unnecessary burdens on school districts and limit the diversity of perspectives available to students.

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs is deeply concerned that House Bill 282 may inadvertently lead to censorship and the removal of LGBTQIA+ books and materials from school libraries. The bill's broad language regarding "sexually explicit materials" risks disproportionate interpretation that could harm access to resources addressing LGBTQIA+ issues, history, and identities. Such outcomes would undermine the ability to provide a supportive and inclusive educational environment for all students.

In conclusion, we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 282. Collaboration between educators, parents, and the existing robust review processes is the most effective way to maintain a safe and enriching learning environment for all students.

**References:**

Maryland Association of School Librarians. (2024, January 21). *How does a book end up in a school library? A MASL blog series on book selection*. Maryland Association of School Librarians Blog. Retrieved from: [https://www.maslmd.org/index.php?option=com\\_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=01&day=21&id=42:how-does-a-book-end-up-in-a-school-library-a-masl-blog-series-on-book-selection](https://www.maslmd.org/index.php?option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=01&day=21&id=42:how-does-a-book-end-up-in-a-school-library-a-masl-blog-series-on-book-selection)