

**UNFAVORABLE**  
**House Bill 282**  
**Public Schools - Sexually Explicit Materials - Prohibited in Libraries and Media Centers**

**House Ways and Means Committee**  
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**Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association opposes House Bill 282, which states an intention to ban sexually explicit materials in elementary, middle, and secondary public school libraries and media centers, defined as depictions of sexual activity that are not age appropriate or used as part of the approved instructional materials for instruction on family life and human sexuality.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing nearly 900,000 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

At a time when our schools are grappling with real issues that impact our students such as persistent educator shortages and adequate school safety, this bill purports to address a phantom problem. In doing so, it perpetuates a harmful and misleading political narrative about the appropriateness of books, resources, and instructional materials curated by educators in public schools. Librarians, media specialists, and educators are trained professionals with expertise in child development, literacy development, and the historical, cultural, and educational value of books and resources. They need not be subjected to the duplicative and ill-defined standards in this bill, which malign educators' professional judgement and seem designed to have a chilling effect on the provision of diverse, well-stocked classroom and school libraries.

**We urge the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 282.**