

2025 Lobby Days

SB1098 – Book Banning Prohibits unlawful discrimination when selecting or retaining school library materials, textbooks or instructional materials or when developing and implementing a curriculum

Talking Points/Benefits to stakeholders of passage of this bill:

Students in public schools – Free speech and free thought have long been the official tenants of the American education system. When choices are made that restrict the views available to children, they lose the chance to experience the joys and challenges of diversity.

Teachers and school district employees – Guidance by the State Education Department is provided to implement the features of the bill and a simple, documented, monitored process is outlined for requesting removal of materials.

Families and friends of students – When children are forced to view the world from only a very limited, rigid perspective, they never learn the skills of compromise and collaboration that come from finding common ground with others around them.

Communities where free access to a wide variety of perspectives are allowed – People who value the differing opinions and perspectives of others can work together to find best solutions for societal issues, resulting in an inclusive, harmonious society.

Major elements of the bill

Prevents licensed teachers, schools, school districts and State Education Departments from prohibiting the selection, retention or use of library materials, textbooks, or instructional materials on the basis that the materials contain perspectives, stories, or are created by individuals or groups that are members of protected classes under Oregon’s anti discrimination law.

Textbooks and other instructional materials shall adequately address the roles in and contributions to the economic, political and social development of Oregon and the United States by men and women who:

- o Are Native American;
- o Are of European, African, Asian, Pacific Island, Chicano, Latino, Middle Eastern or Jewish descent;
- o Have disabilities;
- o Are immigrants or refugees; or
- o Are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Prescribes a process for the removal of library materials by requiring parents, guardians or school employees to request in writing that materials be removed, then requires a committee to consider the request and if removed, requires the committee to include a written statement.

Requires the Oregon Department of Education to provide technical support and guidance to school districts to implement the review process. SB1098 - Prohibits unlawful discrimination when selecting or retaining school library materials, textbooks or instructional materials or when developing and implementing a curriculum

Current status: Work session scheduled for March 10, 8am

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- Students in public schools – Free speech and free thought have long been the official tenants of the American education system. When choices are made that restrict the views available to children, they lose the chance to experience the joys and challenges of diversity.
- Teachers and school district employees – Guidance by the State Education Department is provided to implement the features of the bill and a simple, **documented, monitored** process is outlined for requesting removal of materials.
- Families and friends of students – When children are forced to view the world from only a very limited, rigid perspective, they never learn the skills of compromise and collaboration that come from finding common ground with others around them.
- Communities where free access to a wide variety of perspectives are allowed – People who value the differing opinions and perspectives of others can work together to find best solutions for societal issues, resulting in an inclusive, harmonious society.

Problems the Bill addresses: In some cases, school personnel and school districts have chosen educational materials that match their own biases about demographic or personal choice issues.

By doing this, they do not adopt textbooks and other instructional materials that adequately stress the services rendered by those who achieved our national independence, who established our form of constitutional government and who preserved our federal union.

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse (OIFC), established in 1987 by the State Library of Oregon, publishes an annual report on challenges to materials, services, and programs in Oregon public libraries and school libraries. The process for reporting challenges to the OIFC is voluntary, and the accuracy of the report depends on the number of institutions that choose to report challenges. Therefore, the report may not be exhaustive of all challenges against library materials in Oregon public schools.

According to the 2024 report, there were 68 challenges made against materials in public libraries between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, 47.5 percent of which occurred at school libraries. Several of these challenges included multiple titles. A total of 127 titles were challenged during this time period, **the highest in a single year since the group began collecting data.** Commonly cited reasons for challenges against materials were claims that the materials were sexually explicit and challenges due to LGBTQIA2S+ content in the materials.

In 2024 when a similar bill was introduced in the Oregon legislature, one headline read [Oregon lawmaker's 'simple' attempt to push back against book bans becomes culture war flash point.](#)

Major elements of the bill

- Prevents licensed teachers, schools, school districts and State Education Departments from prohibiting the selection, retention or use of library materials, textbooks, or instructional materials on the basis that the materials contain perspectives, stories, or are created by individuals or groups that are **members of protected classes under Oregon's antidiscrimination law** (Race, Color, National origin, Religion, Disability, Sex (includes pregnancy), Sexual orientation, Gender identity, Age (18 and up), Marital status)
- Textbooks and other instructional materials shall adequately address the roles in and contributions to the economic, political and social development of Oregon and the United States by men and women who:
 - Are Native American;
 - Are of European, African, Asian, Pacific Island, Chicano, Latino, Middle Eastern or Jewish descent;
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committee to consider the request and if removed, requires the committee to include a written statement.

- Requires the Oregon Department of Education to provide technical support and guidance to school districts to implement the review process.

Organizations/Individuals supporting this bill

35 individuals signed up to testify in person

Approximately 970 written testimonies with about 150 opposed to passage

17 organizations supporting this bill, including

- LWV
- Basic Rights Oregon
- 2025 Children's Agenda
- Support Freedom to Read
- City of Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights
- ACLU

6 Organizations opposing this bill, including

- Moms for Liberty
- Oregon Conservative Alliance
- PCP Republican Party