



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: SB 7 SLS 23RS 122
Bill Text Version: RE-REENGROSSED
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 19, 2023 5:49 PM Author: CLOUD
Dept./Agy.: Public Libraries Analyst: Sarah Futch
Subject: Access to Sexually Explicit Materials in Public Libraries

LIBRARIES RR INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides relative to access to certain materials in public libraries. (8/1/23)

Purpose of Bill: This bill requires parish and municipal libraries to implement a policy to restrict minors' access to sexually explicit materials (as defined in the bill) by Jan. 1, 2024. The bill provides, in part, for a library card system allowing parents/guardians to limit their child's access to collections, materials, and digital content that have been identified as sexually explicit material by the library's board of control. In addition, the bill requires a reconsideration process to allow patrons to address concerns about sexually explicit material. The bill also includes penalties for noncompliance.

Note: There are 67 public library systems that are subject to the provisions of this bill.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, 5-YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total. All values are \$0 or INCREASE.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This bill may increase library expenditures related to implementing the required card system. However, the impact on each library will vary and, therefore, the overall impact is currently indeterminable.

Based on information from several public library systems, the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, and the State Library of Louisiana (which received information from 23 public libraries in a survey), it appears that some libraries may experience additional costs associated with implementing the card system requirements of the bill, while others will not. Based on the survey conducted by the State Library, of the 23 responding, 14 libraries would need to adjust their card systems, 7 had systems that could handle requirements of the bill, and 2 libraries were uncertain.

For instance, the East Baton Rouge Parish Library System indicated a potential increase in one time costs of approximately \$2,600 to print new forms and reissue cards. This estimate assumes that 10,000 out of its 100,000 minor accounts will require re-registration in order to restrict digital content. Nonetheless, the library expressed uncertainty regarding the actual costs, primarily due to the difficulty in predicting the number of parents who will opt for the restriction.

However, Lafayette Public Library System informed us that it has already implemented the bill's requirements, and accomplished this without any additional costs. On a similar note, the West Feliciana Parish Library System indicated that it does not foresee additional expenditures in order to comply with the bill as it should be able to adapt its current system to meet the bill's requirements.

In addition, the bill requires a reconsideration process to allow patrons to address concerns about sexually explicit material. Based on the information received above, it appears that the vast majority of the public library systems already have such a process in place.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Signature of Michael G. Battle
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