North Carolina Library-related Bills 2024

July 23, 2024 (6 total bills)

Bill: NC H1032 - Academic Transparency
Last Action: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
AI Summary: This bill, referred to as the Academic Transparency Act, mandates the provision of greater public access to lesson plans and other instructional materials used in North Carolina public schools. It requires that all lesson plans, including any associated curricular materials (textbooks, digital resources, videos, etc.), are posted online on the respective school's website within 10 days of the lesson being conducted. The information must be organized by subject area and grade level. The bill also outlines procedures for reviewing these plans and materials, requesting an in-person review of a course material not publicly accessible online, and lists teacher and staff training materials and activities used. Schools with fewer than 30 students are exempt from these requirements. The bill additionally allocates $10,000 in recurring funds for oversight and enforcement. The bill is slated to take effect from the 2024-2025 school year.
Committee Category: Education
Action Date: 05/07/2024
Sponsor List: Jake Johnson (R)*, David Willis (R)*, Hugh Blackwell (R)*, Allen Chesser (R)*, George Cleveland (R), Kevin Crutchfield (R), Keith Kidwell (R), Donnie Loftis (R), Joe Pike (R), Bill Ward (R)
Bill Progress: In Committee

Bill: NC S873 - End Book Bans Act
Last Action: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
AI Summary: This bill titled "End Book Bans Act" is introduced in the General Assembly of North Carolina to provide parents a right to appeal against the banning of instructional materials in public schools. The bill proposes to establish a community media advisory committee that would investigate and evaluate challenges raised by parents, teachers, and public members to textbooks they deem unsuitable, vulgar, or inappropriate for certain age groups or grade level. The final decision on whether the challenged material should be retained or removed lies with the local board of education. If the superintendent or their representative prohibits the use of a text, parents of at least four percent of the students of the same school can appeal to the local board. Their decision can only be overturned by a two-thirds majority of the board. If the local board upholds the superintendent's decision, the parents can appeal to the State Board of Education. Their decision will be final and not subjected to a judicial review. Appeals to removal based on material related to a protected class under federal law are only permissible if the material is discriminatory or contains bias. The bill also seeks to allocate $100,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to the Department of Public Instruction to develop and distribute guidance about the enforcement of this act. The act would become effective on July 1, 2024, and applicable from the 2024-2025 school year.
Action Date: 05/06/2024
Sponsor List: Lisa Grafstein (D)*, Sydney Batch (D)*, Michael Garrett (D)*, Rachel Hunt (D), Natasha Marcus (D), Natalie Murdock (D), Gladys Robinson (D), Kandie Smith (D)
Bill Progress: In Committee

Bill: NC H964 - Funds for Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
Last Action: Ref to Com on Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
AI Summary: This bill proposes an appropriation of funds from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management. The sum of five million dollars, which is nonrecurring, is earmarked for the fiscal year 2024-2025. This sum will be granted to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation, a nonprofit organization, specifically for the purpose of constructing a new main library. The bill will come into effect on July 1, 2024. In this context, 'nonrecurring' refers to a one-time expenditure, as opposed to recurring costs which are ongoing. 'Appropriation' means to set funds aside for a specific purpose.
Committee Category: Budget and Finance
Action Date: 05/02/2024
Sponsor List: Becky Carney (D)*, Jason Saine (R)*, John Autry (D), Mary Belk (D), Gloristine Brown (D), Kanika Brown (D), Laura Budd (D), Alison Dahle (D), Wesley Harris (D), Pricey Harrison (D), Frances Jackson (D), Zack Hawkins (D), Carolyn Logan (D), Nasif Majeed (D)
Bill Progress: In Committee
This bill, titled Parents' Bill of Rights, focuses on the rights of parents in North Carolina to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their minor children. The bill provides a comprehensive list of rights for parents such as directing the moral, religious, and educational training of their child, enrolling their child in a school of their choosing, accessing their child's educational and medical records, and making health care decisions for their child. The bill also stipulates limitations on these rights, including that parents cannot engage in unlawful conduct or neglect or abuse their child. Provisions are made for future codification purposes. The bill clarifies penalties for state employees who attempt to encourage or coerce a child to withhold information from their parents. The bill also outlines rigorous reporting requirements and remedies for parental concerns. "Codification" refers to the process of organizing laws or rules into a systematic code or set. "Emancipated" indicates that a young person is free from the control of their parents or guardians and is legally able to act as an adult. "Compulsory attendance laws" refer to the legal requirement for children to attend school until a certain age. "Biometric scan" refers to a measurement of a person's unique physical or behavioral characteristics, such as fingerprints or voice patterns, used for identification or access control purposes. "Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)" is the hereditary material in humans and almost all other organisms, and is unique to each individual. "Court of competent jurisdiction" refers to a court that has the legal authority to hear and decide a particular matter.

Committee Category: Education, Government Affairs, Health and Social Services
Action Date: 08/16/2023
Sponsor List: Amy Galey (R)*, Michael Lee (R)*, Lisa Barnes (R)*, Ted Alexander (R), Kevin Corbin (R), Warren Daniel (R), Carl Ford (R), Bobby Hanig (R), Ralph Hise (R), Steve Janis (R), Todd Johnson (R), Joyce Krawiec (R), Michael Lazzara (R), Tom McInnis (R), Tim Moffitt (R), Buck Newton (R), Paul Newton (R), Brad Overcash (R), Jim Perry (R), Norman Sanderson (R), Benton Sawrey (R), Vickie Sawyer (R), Eddie Settle (R)
Signed/Enacted/Adopted

This bill, known as the Youth Health Protection Act, aims to prohibit certain medical procedures and treatments for minors related to gender transition, such as administration of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries altering sex characteristics. The bill asserts that these interventions can cause irreversible physical and psychological harm to minors, arguing that they may not fully understand their long-term implications. The bill also mandates the use of an "obscenity filter" on electronic devices like smartphones and tablets to prevent minors' from accessing or downloading obscene content online. Manufacturers producing devices without this filter, or who knowingly provide a minor with the passcode to disable it, would be held liable under this law. The legislation also asserts the rights of parents or guardians to withhold consent for any treatments or services aimed to treat gender dysphoria or gender nonconformity in their children, and prohibits governmental entities from interfering with this right.

Committee Category: Health and Social Services
Action Date: 04/19/2023
Sponsor List: Keith Kidwell (R)*, Mark Brody (R)*, Neal Jackson (R)*, Jeff McNeely (R), David Willis (R)

This bill mandates the inclusion of informational literacy instruction in schools across North Carolina, from kindergarten through 12th grade, starting from the 2024-2025 school year. In the bill, "informational literacy" is defined as a skill set that enables an individual to determine when information is required and how to effectively locate, evaluate, and utilize it. The literacy extends to digital, visual, media, textual, and technological aspects. The State Board of Education is to set the standards for this instruction, which should cover topics such as the research process, critical thinking, difference between primary and secondary sources, distinction between facts and opinions, accessing peer-reviewed resources, understanding the economic, legal, and social implications of using information, and ethical information production. Local school administrative units are required to consult with library/media personnel in developing curriculum for these standards.

Action Date: 04/04/2023
Sponsor List: Rachel Hunt (D)*, Natalie Murdock (D)*, DeAndrea Salvador (D)*, Mujtaba Mohammed (D), Joyce Waddell (D)

In Committee