

Submitter: Troy Acott
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1583

I object to this bill. We shouldn't have any bills that are so deceptive and don't make their actual results 100% clear in the title, this would take all authority and oversight away from local school boards, meaning parents would have no input to what is taught to our children, which means whatever the state deems appropriate would be considered "not discrimination" and would be ok, even if age inappropriate or morally objectionable in the eyes of most parents, this is a primary reason for having local school boards. Citing an external definition of discrimination is also problematic because that external definition can be changed at any time and result in exactly what people are concerned about.

Key language in the summary:

"may not prohibit the selection or retention of, or refuse to select or retain, a library book on the basis that the library book includes a study or story of any individual or group against whom discrimination is prohibited"

This means that any book that is a "study" or "story" about some individual or group, which could include very objectionable and inappropriate content, which has no educational value toward reading, writing, arithmetic, civics, or the history of our country, would have to be selected for use in our public school curriculum if at least one person proposes using it. The book may have no educational content at all, it may be just a study or story about objectionable or age-inappropriate material. No local school board, parent, or anyone else with their own judgement would be allowed to question it or block it in any way.

From my interpretation, and the statement by Senator Brian Boquist, it's clear that many people on both sides don't agree about the intent, which could easily lead to inconsistencies and/or mistakes in applying the rule, leading to further conflicts with parents, local school boards, and would lead to lawsuits, and more children being pulled out of public schools.

This from Senator Brian Boquist submitted under Potential Conflicts of Interest":

"SB 1583 was a surprise today on the Floor of the Senate. It was not on the Third Reading list. Democrats requested a suspension of the Cons?tu?on with several Republicans vo?ng with them. SB 1583 per proponents and opponents is about free speech in the form of books in schools. However, stated proponent inten?ons do not match the bill language. Likewise, opponent's intent claim for the bill does not match the bill language. In a mee?ng with the Chief Sponsor it

was agreed neither side as it right. Not a good situa?on. Ninety percent of the debate on the Floor did not match the language of the bill either. It was clear proponents and opponents were talking past each other. Again, not a good situa?on. Then there were quotes allegedly from Legisla?ve Counsel from each side of the debate that contradicted each other. A worse situa?on for an issue already in the courts. Claims of racism, inaccuracies, targe?ng a single school, and the state grab of power from local school districts all weight against passage of the bill at this ?me. It is clear there is an issue. Further, that issue needs veted before making mistakes in statute."

Replace ever ? with "it"

The title of this bill is written to get yes votes from people who won't scrutinize. The summary of the bill makes it very clear that there are problems as stated above, and clearly this bill should not be submitted as written. If there is nothing nefarious intended, then it should be easy to write it so the intent and outcome is very clear and agreed upon by anyone who reads it in detail.