
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 150 (S.220). An act relating to Vermont's public libraries

Subjects: Miscellaneous amendments; libraries; libraries, history, and information technology

This act makes several amendments to the laws governing public and school libraries, including the following:

- Sec. 1 of this act amends 22 V.S.A. § 67 by adding a policy statement that states it is necessary for the governing bodies and managers of free public libraries to adopt policies that comply with the First Amendment and State and federal civil rights and antidiscrimination laws to ensure Vermont libraries protect and promote principles of free speech, inquiry, discover, and public accommodation.
- Sec. 2 of this act adds a new section to the Free Public Library Service chapter in Title 22 that requires all public libraries to adopt material selection policies and procedures for the reconsideration and retention of library materials that comply with the First Amendment, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, State laws prohibiting discrimination in places of public accommodation, and that reflect Vermont's diverse people and history, including diversity of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, religion, and political beliefs.
- Sec. 3 of this act amends the age up to which custodial parents or guardians have access to their child's library records from age 16 to 12. Under this amendment, parents will have access to their child's library records if the child is under 12 years of age.
- Sec. 4 of this act amends 13 V.S.A. § 1702, the criminal threatening statute in Title 13. It adds public libraries to the list of places where, if conduct that constitutes criminal threatening occurs, the criminal penalty for such conduct is augmented.
- Sec. 5 of this act amends the general powers section for public libraries that are not municipal libraries by specifically enumerating some of the powers of the trustees, managers, or directors of the library.
- Sec. 6 of this act specifies that a municipal library director shall be under the supervision and control of the library board of trustees unless another relationship is otherwise specified in the municipality's charter or other written agreement between the trustees and municipality. This section also amends the powers of the trustees for a municipal library by specifically enumerating some of the powers of the trustees.
- Sec. 7 of this act amends the duties and functions of the State Department of Libraries.

- Sec. 7a of this act establishes a requirement for each school board and each approved independent school to develop, adopt, and ensure enforcement of a library material selection policy and procedures for the reconsideration and retention of materials that affirms the importance of intellectual freedom, guided by the First Amendment, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Vermont laws prohibiting discrimination in places of public accommodation, the American Library Association's Freedom to Read Statement, Vermont's Freedom to Read Statement, and that reflect Vermont's diverse people and history, including diversity of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, religion, and political beliefs.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2024