
MEMO

February 3, 2025

TO: RAILS Resource Sharing Committee

FROM: Joe Filapek, RAILS Associate Executive Director

SUBJECT: Public Act 103-0100

Enacted January 1, 2024, [Public Act 103-0100](#) amends the Illinois Library System Act by requiring every Illinois library receiving state grants to establish an anti-censorship policy. Libraries must either adopt the American Library Association’s Bill of Rights or develop a written statement prohibiting the practice of banning books or other materials. Failure to do so will result in a library being ineligible to receive state grant funding which includes the annual Public Library Per Capita Grant or the School District Library Grant.

With just twelve months since its enactment, which stretches across portions of two different school years, it is still difficult to evaluate the exact impact of this new legislation. An article that appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* on December 8th [“State Anti-Book-Ban Law Leads Some School Districts to Forsake Grants to Maintain Local Control”](#) suggests that some school districts are willing to forego those grant funds. While the article refers to forty elementary and high school districts who had not applied for grant money during the current fiscal year, it is unclear just how many of those forty did not apply because of opposition to PA 103-0100.

It is also difficult to gauge the direct impact the legislation has had on book ban attempts since its enactment. ALA reports that there were approximately seventy attempts to ban books in 2022 in Illinois. Researcher Dr. Tasslyn Magnusson, who has [tracked book bans and challenges since 2021](#), reports only three known book challenges during 2024. While this preliminary data is encouraging, this relies on book challenges that are reported. Soft censorship, challenges to library programming, and/or more generalized challenges to book displays or entire genres still persist across both public and school libraries.

While more time is needed to truly understand the impact of Public Act 103-0100, it has undoubtedly given Illinois libraries a tool for combatting censorship that had not existed before it. We have seen this legislation inspire similar laws in other states. And the media coverage of this law has helped alert communities across Illinois to the growing threat of censorship in libraries and the need for continued advocacy.

I look forward to our discussion during the February 10th Resource Sharing Committee meeting.