

Senate Bill 458

By: Senators Parent of the 42nd, Butler of the 55th, Jones II of the 22nd, Halpern of the 39th,
Esteves of the 6th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 libraries, so as to require the board of regents to adopt the American Library Association's
3 Library Bill of Rights; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
4 purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.

7 Chapter 5 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to libraries, is
8 amended by adding a new subsection to Code Section 20-5-2, relating to powers and duties
9 of the board of regents and director of University of Georgia Libraries, abolition of State
10 Library Commission and transfer of functions, reports of state publications, and electronic
11 submission, to read as follows:

12 “(n) The board of regents shall adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of
13 Rights that indicates materials which should not be proscribed or removed because of
14 partisan or doctrinal disapproval or, in the alternative, shall develop a written statement
15 declaring the inherent authority of a library or library system to provide an adequate
16 collection of books and other materials sufficient in size to satisfy the needs of library

17 patrons or the community served by a city, county, or regional library system and
18 prohibiting the practice of banning specific books or other materials."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-5-3, relating to disbursement
21 of funds, as follows:

22 "20-5-3.

23 (a) In order to effectuate the purposes of this article there shall be made available to the
24 board of regents whatever funds may be duly allocated to it by the proper authority, either
25 by specific appropriation or otherwise as now provided by law, and the board of regents
26 shall be authorized to disburse such funds to public libraries serving persons of all ages
27 through legally constituted municipal library boards or to the other legally constituted local
28 library boards as may now or hereafter be established by law. The board of regents shall
29 use such funds for the purpose of aiding and supplementing the establishment and
30 development of public library services.

31 (b) In order to be eligible for state funds, a library or library system shall adopt the
32 American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights that indicates materials which should
33 not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval or, in the
34 alternative, shall develop a written statement prohibiting the practice of banning books or
35 other materials within the library or library system."

36 **SECTION 3.**

37 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.