

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB236 **Patron:** Gardner
Bill Title: Local, regional, and school library material.

Bill Summary: Requires the establishment of model policies and the subsequent establishment of local policies that are consistent with such model policies on the selection, purchase, curation, display, and removal of library material, as that term is defined in the bill, in local, regional, and school libraries in the Commonwealth. The bill requires such policies, among other things, to prohibit the censorship, as such term is defined in the bill, of library material and to establish a process by which certain individuals with a vested interest in the relevant library may request that the library material be reclassified, moved to a different section of the library, or removed from the library. The bill also permits certain individuals to seek certain types of relief in a court of competent jurisdiction for certain harms suffered as the result of violations of such policies.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** 231

Explanation: The Library of Virginia would require an additional position to support the responsibilities in the bill. The Department of Education notes that there are a number of bills that require the Department to develop new guidelines, resources, or reports. While the work of each individual bill may be absorbed by existing staff, if several of these bills are adopted during the 2026 session, additional resources may be required. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: The Library of Virginia estimates the need for one additional position at the cost of \$130,957 general fund per year beginning in fiscal year 2027.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
202 (LVA)	\$0	\$130,957	\$130,957	\$130,957	\$130,957	\$130,957
TOTAL	\$0	\$130,957	\$130,957	\$130,957	\$130,957	\$130,957

Position Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
202 (LVA)	0	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	0	1	1	1	1	1

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Fiscal Analysis:

This bill requires the Librarian of Virginia to develop a model policy on the curation and removal of library material at local and regional libraries. According to the Library of Virginia, there is not currently staff available to administer such model policy development as required by this bill. In order to complete the work, the Library of Virginia requires an additional Library Specialist III to administer the process. The mid-range salary of that position is \$87,600 per fiscal year. Benefits and retirement would cost an additional \$28,898 per fiscal year at the lower end or \$49,816 per fiscal year at the higher end, for an average cost of \$39,357 per fiscal year. Additionally, the position would require support costs, including technology, travel, and professional development, for \$4,000 each fiscal year. Thus, the total average cost of an additional Library Specialist III per fiscal year is \$130,957.

After the model policy is developed, the additional Library Specialist III would work with libraries and library systems statewide to support review committee assistance and training. This position would identify resources and collaborate with localities to support compliance with the provisions of the bill.

The bill also requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop a model policy on the curation and removal of library material at school libraries. The Department of Education notes that there are a number of bills that require the Department to develop new guidelines, resources, or reports. While the work of each individual bill may be absorbed by existing staff, if several of these bills are adopted during the 2026 session, additional resources may be required.

Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Other: None.