

NEW JERSEY
FREEDOM
to Read
S2421
A3446

The bill in brief



The bill establishes **requirements** for materials in public and school libraries, and **protects** librarians from harassment. It encompasses **rights** for readers, parents, libraries, and librarians.



Reader's rights



- Recognizes that libraries are centers for voluntary reading, educational rigor, and respect for freedom of speech
- Requires access to library materials that reveal our world in all its variety
- Provides access to library materials that meet readers' interests, needs, and developmental level



Parent's rights



- Requires libraries to adopt a selection policy for acquiring materials
- Enables parents to choose from a wide range of professionally curated library materials
- Requires libraries to establish a process for requesting removal of library materials
- Includes a parent on the reconsideration committee for school libraries



Library's rights



- Enables local boards to direct development of selection & removal policies that comply with the act's intent
- Provides model policies from the Commissioner of Education & the NJ State Library
- Limits removal requests to persons with a vested interest in the school district or library



Librarian's rights



- Acknowledges that librarians are professionally trained to curate library collections
- Prevents criminal or civil liability for good-faith performance of job responsibilities
- Enables civil action against people who harass librarians for good-faith performance of job responsibilities