



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB3511

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Sen. Mike Simmons

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

105 ILCS 5/2-3.24

from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.24

Creates the Let America Read Act. Provides that an entity or an entity's staff with oversight over the books, instructional materials, or curriculum used in a public school may not refuse to approve or prohibit the use of books, instructional materials, or a curriculum, including, but not limited to, memoirs, autobiographies, and biographies, based upon the depiction of matters of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual and reproductive health, gender identity, religion, or human rights activism. Provides that these provisions do not restrict an entity with oversight over the books, instructional materials, or curriculum used in a public school from imposing limitations on the access to books, instructional materials, or a curriculum based upon the age and developmental level of the students who will have access. Amends the School Code to set forth a penalty for a school district that violates the Act.

LRB103 39392 RJT 69572 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Let
5 America Read Act.

6 Section 5. Definition. As used in this Act, "entity" means
7 a unit of State government or local government.

8 Section 10. Prohibiting book, instructional material, or
9 curriculum bans.

10 (a) An entity or an entity's staff with oversight over the
11 books, instructional materials, or curriculum used in a public
12 school may not refuse to approve or prohibit the use of books,
13 instructional materials, or a curriculum, including, but not
14 limited to, memoirs, autobiographies, and biographies, based
15 upon the depiction in the books, instructional materials, or
16 curriculum of matters of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation,
17 sexual and reproductive health, gender identity, religion, or
18 human rights activism.

19 (b) This Section does not restrict an entity with
20 oversight over the books, instructional materials, or
21 curriculum used in a public school from imposing limitations
22 on the access to books, instructional materials, or a

1 curriculum based upon the age and developmental level of the
2 students who will have access to the books, instructional
3 materials, or curriculum.

4 Section 90. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 2-3.24 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.24) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.24)

7 Sec. 2-3.24. Withholding funds from school officer or
8 teacher. To require the Comptroller, regional superintendent
9 of schools, trustees, township treasurer, directors or other
10 school officer to withhold from any township, district,
11 officer or teacher any part of the common school, township or
12 other school fund (i) until such treasurer, officer or teacher
13 has made all schedules, reports and returns required of such
14 officer ~~him~~ by this Code Act and until the ~~such~~ officer has
15 executed and filed all official bonds and accounted for all
16 common school, township or other school funds which have come
17 into the officer's ~~his~~ hands or (ii) if a school district is in
18 violation of Section 10 of the Instructional Materials in
19 Schools Act, until the school district is in compliance with
20 Section 10 of the Instructional Materials in Schools Act.

21 (Source: P.A. 88-641, eff. 9-9-94.)