

**An Act relating to the dissemination of sexually explicit material to minors, eliminating exemptions for public libraries, expanding the definition of sexually explicit content, and providing for governance by the State Library of Iowa and the Iowa Commission of Libraries.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:**

1 Section 1. SENSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

2 Freedom of speech is the bedrock of the American republic and is protected by Article  
3 I, section 7 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa and the First Amendment to the  
4 Constitution of the United States.

5 The General Assembly further finds that sexually explicit and pornographic content has  
6 no redeeming benefit to our society, and that scientific research has concluded such  
7 content can be harmful to young, developing minds.

8 It is therefore the sense of the General Assembly that the State of Iowa has a  
9 compelling interest in protecting minors from exposure to sexually explicit content,  
10 including euphemistic or metaphorical depictions of graphic sex acts, while preserving  
11 access to biologically accurate, medically accepted, and age-appropriate educational  
12 descriptions of human reproductive processes.

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14 Sec. 2. Section 728.7, Code 2025, is amended by striking the section and inserting in  
15 lieu thereof the following:

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17 728.7 EXEMPTIONS REPEALED.

18 No exemption shall apply to public libraries, public librarians, or library staff. All  
19 provisions of this chapter apply equally to such institutions and individuals.

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21 Sec. 3. Section 728.1, Code 2025, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

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23 NEW SUBSECTION. 11. "Sexually explicit content" means any description, depiction,  
24 or representation of genitals, sexual activity, sex acts, masturbation, excretory  
25 functions, or sadomasochistic abuse. This includes any use of euphemism,  
26 metaphor, allegory, or figurative language that conveys or describes graphic sexual  
27 acts, whether literal or implied.

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29 EXEMPTION. This definition shall not include biologically accurate, medically  
30 accepted, and age-appropriate educational descriptions of human reproductive  
31 anatomy and processes, including instruction on puberty, fertilization, pregnancy,  
32 and childbirth, when presented in a factual and scientific manner without

1 euphemism or metaphor.

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3 Sec. 4. ENFORCEMENT. The attorney general or county attorney shall enforce  
4 violations under section 728.1A. Civil remedies under section 728.6 apply to violations  
5 by public libraries, librarians, or staff.

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7 Sec. 5. STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA — CONTENT REVIEW.

8 1. The State Library of Iowa shall serve as the sole arbiter of acceptable content under  
9 this chapter.

10 2. In exercising this authority, the State Library shall apply longstanding standards of  
11 literature and art, consistent with recognized professional practices in library science  
12 and the humanities.

13 3. The State Library shall issue guidance to public libraries regarding compliance with  
14 this chapter, including illustrative examples of acceptable and prohibited content.

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16 Sec. 6. IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES — OVERRIDE AUTHORITY.

17 1. The Iowa Commission of Libraries may, by majority vote, override any decision of the  
18 State Library of Iowa regarding the acceptability of specific content under this chapter.

19 2. Such override decisions shall be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin and  
20 shall carry the force of law until amended or repealed by subsequent Commission  
21 action.

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23 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1 following enactment.