



Strengthening the Age Appropriate Materials Act to Improve Implementation Without Limiting Access to Quality Learning

The *Age Appropriate Materials Act* (AAMA) was enacted in 2022 and seeks to ensure that school materials are age appropriate and subject to a locally governed review process. The following legislation builds on that foundation by strengthening implementation and correcting unintended consequences — while preserving student access to high-quality academic resources.

HB2435/SB2400: Maintaining Access to State-Supported Academic Resources

Background

In implementing the *Age Appropriate Materials Act*, the state has applied broad filtering practices that have restricted student access to the Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL). TEL is a state-funded, professionally curated online research library that supports Tennessee academic standards, including research, analysis of multiple viewpoints, and college and career readiness skills.

Strengthening Implementation

HB 2435 / SB 2400 clarifies that TEL is exempt from the *Age Appropriate Materials Act*. This ensures that students, educators, and parents can access vetted research databases without additional content restrictions that were not originally intended under the law.

By addressing an implementation issue, this legislation preserves legislative intent while ensuring state-funded academic tools remain fully accessible in classrooms across Tennessee.

HB2434/SB2298: Clarifying Review Procedures & Reinforcing Local Governance

Background

The *Age Appropriate Materials Act* requires each local school board and public charter school to adopt a policy for reviewing challenged materials. In some districts, however, materials have been removed from circulation before the locally adopted review process has been completed. This has created inconsistencies for educators, librarians, and students.

Strengthening Implementation

HB 2434 / SB 2298 clarifies that materials undergoing formal review must remain in circulation until the review process is completed and a final determination is made in accordance with local board policy. The bill does not change content standards or review authority; it ensures fairness in the review process and upholds the role of school boards.

Conclusion

Together, these measures provide practical refinements to Tennessee's existing education policy framework. By strengthening implementation of the *Age Appropriate Materials Act* and preserving access to vetted academic resources, the General Assembly can ensure the law operates as intended — supporting students, educators, and local school communities.

Have questions? Let us help find the answers. Email mpowell@edtrust.org for more information.