

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 1853

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to parental access to public school library Internet
3 portals and restriction of access to certain public school library
4 materials for the parent's student.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 33, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 33.026 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 33.026. PARENTAL ACCESS TO LIBRARY INTERNET PORTAL
9 AND RESTRICTION OF STUDENT ACCESS TO CERTAIN LIBRARY MATERIALS.

10 (a) In this section:

11 (1) "Parent" includes a person standing in parental
12 relation.

13 (2) "School library Internet portal" means an Internet
14 portal that allows a student enrolled in a school district or
15 open-enrollment charter school to reserve or check out materials in
16 the catalog of a school library at the district or school.

17 (b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school
18 that maintains, or contracts with a third party to maintain, a
19 school library Internet portal shall ensure that the Internet
20 portal includes a feature for a parent of a student enrolled in the
21 district or school to:

22 (1) access the Internet portal; and

23 (2) designate a library material as a restricted
24 material that the parent's student may not be allowed to reserve,

1 check out, or otherwise access for use outside of the school
2 library.

3 (c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may
4 not allow a student to reserve, check out, or otherwise use outside
5 the school library a library material the student's parent has
6 designated as a restricted material under Subsection (b).

7 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2024-2025
8 school year.

9 SECTION 3. Not later than September 1, 2024, each school
10 district and open-enrollment charter school shall ensure that each
11 school library Internet portal complies with Section 33.026,
12 Education Code, as added by this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.