



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB1623

Introduced 2/1/2023, by Rep. Ryan Spain

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/10-31 new  
105 ILCS 5/34-18.82 new

Amends the School Code. Requires a school board to adopt a policy to (i) allow the parent or legal guardian of a child to notify the school principal or a designee in writing that the parent or legal guardian objects to the use of specific course material and (ii) allow the child to use alternative course material. Requires the alternative course material to be provided at the expense of the parent or legal guardian. Requires the content of the alternative course material to be sufficiently equivalent to the specific course material to enable the child to meet State standards in a particular subject area. Effective July 1, 2023.

LRB103 05080 RJT 50094 b

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

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 5. The School Code is amended by adding Sections  
5 10-31 and 34-18.82 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-31 new)

7 Sec. 10-31. Parental objection to specific course  
8 material.

9 (a) In this Section, "specific course material" includes,  
10 but is not limited to, a book or books, workbooks,  
11 supplementary materials, computer software, magnetic media,  
12 DVDs, CD-ROMs, computer courseware, online services, an  
13 electronic medium, or other means of conveying information to  
14 a student or otherwise contributing to the learning process  
15 through electronic means.

16 (b) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each school  
17 board shall adopt a policy allowing the parent or legal  
18 guardian of a child to request that the child be excluded from  
19 using specific course material based on the parent's or legal  
20 guardian's finding that the specific course material is  
21 objectionable. The policy shall include provisions that  
22 require:

23 (1) the parent or legal guardian to notify the school

1 principal or a designee in writing of the specific course  
2 material to which the parent or legal guardian objects;  
3 and

4 (2) the use of alternative course material that is  
5 agreed upon by both the school district and the parent or  
6 legal guardian.

7 (c) The alternative course material under paragraph (2) of  
8 subsection (b) shall be provided for use by the child at the  
9 parent's or legal guardian's expense. The content of the  
10 alternative course material must be sufficiently equivalent to  
11 the specific course material found objectionable by the parent  
12 or legal guardian to enable the child to meet State standards  
13 for education in the particular subject area covered by the  
14 specific course material.

15 (d) The name of the parent or legal guardian and any of the  
16 specific reasons for the parent's or legal guardian's  
17 objection to the specific course material under this Section  
18 must remain confidential and may not be publicly disclosed.

19 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.82 new)

20 Sec. 34-18.82. Parental objection to specific course  
21 material.

22 (a) In this Section, "specific course material" includes,  
23 but is not limited to, a book or books, workbooks,  
24 supplementary materials, computer software, magnetic media,  
25 DVDs, CD-ROMs, computer courseware, online services, an

1 electronic medium, or other means of conveying information to  
2 a student or otherwise contributing to the learning process  
3 through electronic means.

4 (b) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the board  
5 shall adopt a policy allowing the parent or legal guardian of a  
6 child to request that the child be excluded from using  
7 specific course material based on the parent's or legal  
8 guardian's finding that the specific course material is  
9 objectionable. The policy shall include provisions that  
10 require:

11 (1) the parent or legal guardian to notify the school  
12 principal or a designee in writing of the specific course  
13 material to which the parent or legal guardian objects;  
14 and

15 (2) the use of alternative course material that is  
16 agreed upon by both the school district and the parent or  
17 legal guardian.

18 (c) The alternative course material under paragraph (2) of  
19 subsection (b) shall be provided for use by the child at the  
20 parent's or legal guardian's expense. The content of the  
21 alternative course material must be sufficiently equivalent to  
22 the specific course material found objectionable by the parent  
23 or legal guardian to enable the child to meet State standards  
24 for education in the particular subject area covered by the  
25 specific course material.

26 (d) The name of the parent or legal guardian and any of the

1 specific reasons for the parent's or legal guardian's  
2 objection to the specific course material under this Section  
3 must remain confidential and may not be publicly disclosed.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
5 2023.