

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity;
and Senator Lynn

302-1905-03

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to library records; amending s.
257.261, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
confidentiality of public library registration
and circulation records to authorize disclosure
of information to the parent or guardian of a
library patron under age 16, for the purpose of
collecting fines or recovering overdue books or
other materials; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 257.261, Florida Statutes, is
amended to read:

257.261 Library registration and circulation
records.--

(1) All registration and circulation records of every
public library, except statistical reports of registration and
circulation, are confidential and exempt from the provisions
of s. 119.07(1) and from s. 24(a) of Art. I of the State
Constitution. ~~Except in accordance with proper judicial order,
a person may not make known in any manner any information
contained in such records, except as provided in this section.~~

(2) As used in this section, the term "registration
records" includes any information that a library requires a
patron to provide in order to become eligible to borrow books
and other materials, and the term "circulation records"
includes all information that identifies the patrons who
borrow particular books and other materials.

(3)(a) Except in accordance with a proper judicial
order, a person may not make known in any manner any

1 information contained in records made confidential and exempt
2 by this section, except as otherwise provided in this section.

3 (b) A This section does not prohibit any library, or
4 any business operating jointly with the library may, for the
5 purpose of collecting fines or recovering overdue books,
6 documents, films, or other items or materials owned or
7 otherwise belonging to the library, disclose, from disclosing
8 information made confidential and exempt by this section to:

9 1. Municipal or county law enforcement officials, or
10 to judicial officials;

11 2. The library patron named in the records; or

12 3. In the case of a library patron less than 16 years
13 of age the parent or guardian of that patron named in the

14 records. for the purpose of recovering overdue books,
15 documents, films, or other items or materials owned or
16 otherwise belonging to the library. This section does not
17 prohibit any library, or any business operating jointly with
18 the library, from disclosing information to municipal or
19 county law enforcement officials or to judicial officials or
20 to any business for the purpose of collecting fines or overdue
21 books, documents, films, or other items or materials. In the
22 case of a public library patron under the age of 16, a public
23 library may only release confidential information relating to
24 the parent or guardian of the person under 16.

25 (4) Any person who violates this section commits is
26 guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as
27 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 192

Restructures and reorganizes the section to clarify it.
Clarifies that a parent or guardian of a child under the age of 16 may be granted access to records of that child for the purpose of recovering overdue books and collecting fines.
Authorizes patrons access to their registration and circulation records.