



HB 0251

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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.--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. 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. This section  
 does not prohibit any library, or any business operating jointly  
 with the library, from disclosing information to the parent or  
 guardian of a public library patron under the age of 16  
~~municipal or county law enforcement officials, or to judicial~~



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31 ~~officials,~~ for the purpose of collecting fines or recovering  
 32 overdue books, documents, films, or other items or materials  
 33 owned or otherwise belonging to the library. This section does  
 34 not prohibit any library, or any business operating jointly with  
 35 the library, from disclosing information to municipal or county  
 36 law enforcement officials or to judicial officials or to any  
 37 business for the purpose of collecting fines or recovering  
 38 overdue books, documents, films, or other items or materials  
 39 owned or otherwise belonging to the library. In the case of a  
 40 public library patron under the age of 16, however, the ~~a~~ public  
 41 library or business entity may only release confidential  
 42 information relating to the parent or guardian of the person  
 43 under 16. Any person who violates this section commits ~~is guilty~~  
 44 ~~of~~ a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in  
 45 s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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