



About the Wyoming Library Association For Joint Judiciary Committee August 2025 Meeting

Mission Statement: The Wyoming Library Association is dedicated to advancing librarianship across the state. We foster a collaborative community where librarians exchange knowledge, support one another, and champion the vital role of libraries in Wyoming.

Tenets:

- To provide leadership and to serve as a collective voice and advocate for advancement of Wyoming libraries.
- To educate the library community and users about contemporary library services, issues, and technology.
- To provide members with a network for interaction on professional and social levels.
- To promote the profession of librarianship and participation of Wyoming libraries in regional, national, and global library arenas.

Governance: The Wyoming Library Association is a small, volunteer-run organization composed of members from Wyoming's public, academic, and school libraries.

- WLA is an independent organization. WLA is not governed by the American Library Association, nor does the association receive funding from ALA.
- WLA's executive board is composed solely of library staff elected and appointed from within Wyoming, and our decisions are made independently.

Professional Development Focus: WLA provides valuable resources for training and networking, and serves as a collective voice for librarians statewide—especially when advocating for strong, community-centered libraries that serve children, teens, and families.

**Suggested Amendments & Working Group Request
Respectfully Submitted by the Wyoming Library Association
For Joint Judiciary Committee August 2025 Meeting**

The Wyoming Library Association is respectfully suggesting the Joint Judiciary Committee consider forming a working group to further discuss and research this issue. WLA is interested in finding a legislative compromise that supports protecting Wyoming children, empowers parents, and allows libraries to continue governing based on local control and the interests of communities.

WLA understands that this issue has continued to evolve, as the State Legislature attempts to reach a solution. A working group would bring various stakeholders to the table to work toward a collective solution.

If the Joint Judiciary Committee would consider moving forward with a working group, the Wyoming Library Association is able to provide recommendations on professional public librarians and professional school librarians that would be willing to participate.

The Wyoming Library Association is also respectfully proposing a set of amendments to *26LSO-0080 – Sexually explicit materials in libraries-requirements*. The amendments are:

1. Add language to distinguish between materials that are appropriate for children versus materials that are appropriate for teens.
2. Provide a clear definition for “any interested party”.
 1. For public libraries “any interested party” should specify that the party be a Wyoming library cardholder living within the specific library’s service area.
 1. For example, a complainant filing a cause for action against the Laramie County Library System would need to be a resident of Laramie County.
 2. For school libraries “any interested party” should be defined as a parent or guardian with a currently-enrolled child in the school district where the complaint is being made.
3. Lower the \$50,000 civil penalty to a more manageable amount per violation.
4. Insert language to require that established reconsideration policies at public libraries and school libraries be used before fines or litigation can be initiated—ensuring complaints are handled through existing, community-based processes first and allowing for genuine mistakes to be addressed before any legal action is taken.