

NHLTA is asking for your action on the following two legislative bills that are now in Senate committees. Both bills will amend **RSA 201-D:11 Library User Records; Confidentiality** (<https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/XVI/201-D/201-D-11.htm>).

There are many questions that have been brought to NHLTA's attention. You may use any one of them or ask your own question. Links to the committees and to each member of the committees are provided with each bill below. Please write and express your concern.

NHLTA opposes both bills.

Marcia McLaughlin
President, NHLTA
For the NHLTA Board of Directors
4/3/2025

HOUSE BILL 273 (https://gc.nh.gov/bill_status/billinfo.aspx?id=556)

Currently in the Senate Children and Family Law committee.

This bill allows parents to access all of their minor child's library records by adding a new paragraph to Section 1

Contact Children and Family Law committee: Link to [Children and Family Law](#) committee

Committee members emails: [Chairman Daryl Abbas](#), [V Chairman Victoria Sullivan](#), [Pat Long](#), [Email Entire Committee](#)

QUESTIONS FOR THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE:

- How does the library staff confirm that the parent/guardian does reside at the same address? What is acceptable proof by the state to protect the library staff from giving out the info to the wrong person (i.e. non-custodial parent or in a domestic abuse situation)?
- What is the town/city Trustees liability for any mistakes?
- If a parent doesn't know if the child has a card and staff tells them is this considered a violation of HB666?
- What policies and procedures do libraries put in place to protect the staff?
- Is audio visual included as electronic formats? (needs to be confirmed as libraries do not necessarily have access to these records)

HOUSE BILL 666 (https://gc.nh.gov/bill_status/billinfo.aspx?id=499&inflect=2)

Currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This bill amends sections I and II and adds a new section IV relative to adding restitution payment for violations of the confidentiality of the library use records and adding library cards and membership status to the list of confidential matters.

Contact Judiciary committee: Link to [Judiciary](#) committee

Committee members emails: [Chairman Bill Gannon](#), [V Chairman Daryl Abbas](#), [Sharon Carson](#), [Debra Altschiller](#), [Tara Reardon](#), [Email Entire Committee](#)

QUESTIONS FOR THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

- How can library staff still assist patrons over the phone or via email? How do they confirm it is the card holder calling/emailing?
- What identifying data do libraries need to start collecting? Most don't collect SSN or date of birth?

- Who is going to oversee these complaints and investigate them?
- How does one defend themselves from such a complaint?
- How do libraries protect staff from malicious claims? For example, a patron is angry over a damaged book and decides to retaliate?
- Who oversees and verifies payment and the apology letter sent to an aggrieved party?
- Given our staff only have access to this information related to their job duties isn't a fine in essence the employer's/library's responsibility?
- Is this going to increase liability insurance costs to towns/cities?
- Does this bill conflict with HB273?