

# Senate Education Committee

*Trevor Currier 271-4151*

**HB 1256**, removing the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to students attending graduate library schools.

**Hearing Date:** April 14, 2026

**Time Opened:** 9:47 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 9:52 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Ward, Sullivan, Abbas and Prentiss

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator Altschiller

**Bill Analysis:** This bill removes the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to qualified persons to attend a graduate library school accredited by the American Library Association.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Drago

Rep. Noble

Rep. Perez

Rep. Mazur

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**Who supports the bill:** Representative Mike Drago (Rockingham 4), Representative Katy Peternel (Carroll 6), Timothy Finney, Pamela Harders, and Curtis Howland.

**Who opposes the bill:** Cory Stone, William Copeland Jr, Joyce Weston, Julie Retelle, Stephanie Osborne, Richard Osborne, Suzanna Derynioski, Carol Lenahan, Sally Widerstrom, Janet Lucas, Rebecca White, Sheila Donahue, Nancy Donahue, Steven Zeimetz, Tami Lanzillo Zeimetz, Lisa Day-Copeland, Ann Hunnewell, Nathaniel Blair, and Gary McCool.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** No one.

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Mike Drago - *Rockingham 4***

- Representative Drago introduced and testified in support of House Bill 1256.
- Representative Drago stated that this bill removes the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to American Library Association (ALA) accredited schools.

- Representative Drago stated that there is no current state librarian and that there doesn't seem to be any progress toward retaining one.
- He characterized the ALA as a political action committee which has contributed to the political debate regarding "book bans".
- Representative Drago explained that the ALA instructs its members to contact legislators to influence them to reject efforts to create a mechanism to challenge books.
- He stated that the last time a scholarship was awarded through this mechanism was more than 25 years ago.

**Representative Katy Peternel – *Carroll 6***

- Representative Peternel stated that the Library Trustees Association, which distributes librarian scholarships, makes the statute unnecessary and therefore supports its repeal.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None.

**Neutral Information Presented:** None.

