



Bill number: 240672

Introduced by: Bass

Cosponsor(s): Gilmore Richardson, Landau, Lozada, Ahmad

Assigned committee: Law and Government

Date introduced: 09/05/2024

Fiscal Note

Overview

This bill would establish a new chapter and designate libraries within the Free Library of Philadelphia system as “book sanctuaries.” It is anticipated that there would be no fiscal impact resulting from the enactment of this legislation.

Legislative Summary

This bill would designate all libraries and branches within the Free Library of Philadelphia as book sanctuaries, “dedicated to the unrestricted access to books and information.” Libraries would be required to inform the public of their status as book sanctuaries, including by displaying signage, and to engage in community events to promote access to information. The bill would prohibit the Free Library from removing materials based solely on content and would require that procedures for handling challenges to library materials are fair and transparent.

Proposed Effective Date

This legislation would be effective 90 days after enactment.

Fiscal Impact Analysis

The Free Library of Philadelphia anticipates that there would be no fiscal impact resulting from the enactment of this legislation. The costs surrounding designating all libraries and branches within the Free Library of Philadelphia is anticipated to be absorbed with existing resources.

Legislative History

Not applicable

Prepared by: Policy and Fiscal Analyst Unit, Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs

Date: 09/10/2024

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