

May 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we near the end of the Legislative Session, there is a rush to try to get things done. Unfortunately, about the first half of the session dealt with gambling, which remains an issue. When the session is over, we will give a full report, on that and other bills.

As you know, we provide legal assistance to legislators and constituents on various issues, without charge. We provide objective sound legal advice. We do not bias our services for lobbying purposes.

Commonly, we deal with parental rights in many contexts. This month's Educational Update deals with a very important issue that has received much publicity in the last months.

This particular issue deals with another aspect of the LGBTQ+ agenda. Both materials and live presentations dealing with sexual and gender issues have appeared in many Alabama libraries and public schools in the presence of minors. The American Library Association and its constituent members are very progressive and believe that no material or activities in a library should be withheld from children, whether there is parental consent or not. It originally opposed the Alabama Anti-Obscenity Enforcement Act passed in 1989.

This month's Educational Update amends that long existing law to include new forms of conduct that is "harmful to minors." Because librarians have abused the exemption earlier given to them in the law, it was necessary to remove their exemption and include provisions to protect the children.

The attached memo, along with a number of others, was prepared for the sponsor of the legislation. This is in a very important area of constitutional law, which also involves freedom of speech. It passed the House on April 25, 2024. We are hopeful the law will now pass the Senate and go to the Governor before the session ends.

Thank you very much for your continuing support. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston

AEJ/pkh