

From: Veldran, Katherine
To: Haley Mottel (HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov) <HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 6/16/2014 10:30:43 AM
Subject: counters the letter? thoughts?

S.813

This bill nobly attempts to address the problem that libraries are unable to bar individuals who have persistently engaged in misconduct in their facilities. This is because the state's trespassing law does not apply to libraries, according to a 20XX Attorney General's opinion.

This bill's proposed solution is to allow county councils to adopt codes of conduct for their respective libraries. If this bill becomes law, an individual who violates such a code, is served with a written warning in the presence of a law enforcement officer, and then subsequently reenters that library would be guilty of a new misdemeanor that would carry a penalty of \$200 or 30 days in jail.

Our criminal code must apply to all citizens of this state equally. This bill allows 46 separate county councils to adopt 46 different codes of conduct, meaning that behavior that is effectively criminalized in one county would be legal just a few short miles away.

Libraries need better tools to manage seriously and persistently disruptive behavior, but the right way to do this is to respect the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution by amending our existing trespassing statute, so that all South Carolinians can continue to receive equal protection under the law.

Katherine F. Veldran
Director of Legislative Affairs | Office of Governor Nikki Haley
O: 803-734-5124 | C: 803-767-7583
KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov