

## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4174

Introduced 10/28/2025, by Rep. Kimberly Du Buclet

## SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Prohibition on State Interference in Museum Content Act. Sets forth the purpose of the Act. Defines "museum" as an institution or entity located in the State that: (1) is operated by the State, a local governmental unit, a non-profit corporation, a trust, an association, or an educational institution that receives State funds; (2) is operated primarily for educational, scientific, historic preservation, cultural, or aesthetic purposes; and (3) owns, borrows, cares for, exhibits, studies, archives, or catalogues property. Provides that "museum" includes, but is not limited to, any one or more of the following institutions or entities that receive State funds: historical societies; historic sites; landmarks; parks; archives; monuments; botanical gardens; arboreta; zoos; nature centers; planetaria; aquaria; libraries; technology centers; and art, history, science, and natural history museums. Provides that a State or local governmental unit shall not interfere in the creation or content of (i) exhibits and programming in museums or (ii) events in museums that are related to race, gender, or historical events. Provides that a museum shall base its exhibits and programming on credible scholarship and inclusive narratives. Provides that a museum shall prioritize partnerships between the museum and historians, educators, and cultural leaders regarding exhibits in the museum to ensure that the exhibits are balanced and fact-based. Effective January 1, 2027.

LRB104 15814 AAS 29014 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Prohibition on State Interference in Museum Content Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose. The General Assembly declares that it  
7 is the public policy of the State to protect the integrity of  
8 museum content against political censorship by (i) prohibiting  
9 governmental interference in museum exhibits and programming  
10 and events related to race, gender, or historical events, (ii)  
11 requiring museums that receive funding from the State to base  
12 exhibits on credible scholarship and inclusive narratives, and  
13 (iii) encouraging partnerships between museums and historians,  
14 educators, and cultural leaders to ensure balanced, fact-based  
15 exhibits.

16 Section 10. Definitions.

17 As used in this Act:

18 "Local governmental unit" means any county, municipality,  
19 township, special district, school district, or community  
20 college.

21 "Museum" means an institution or entity located in this  
22 State that:

1           (1) is operated by the State, a local governmental  
2           unit, a non-profit corporation, a trust, an association,  
3           or an educational institution that receives State funds;

4           (2) is operated primarily for educational, scientific,  
5           historic preservation, cultural, or aesthetic purposes;  
6           and

7           (3) owns, borrows, cares for, exhibits, studies,  
8           archives, or catalogues property.

9           "Museum" includes, but is not limited to, any one or more  
10          of the following institutions or entities that receive State  
11          funds: historical societies; historic sites; landmarks; parks;  
12          archives; monuments; botanical gardens; arboreta; zoos; nature  
13          centers; planetaria; aquaria; libraries; technology centers;  
14          and art, history, science, and natural history museums.

15          Section 15. Prohibition on State interference. Neither the  
16          State nor a local governmental unit shall interfere in the  
17          creation or content of (i) exhibits and programming in a  
18          museum or (ii) events in museums that are related to race,  
19          gender, or historical events.

20          Section 20. Publicly funded museums. A museum shall base  
21          its exhibits and programming on credible scholarship and  
22          inclusive narratives.

23          Section 25. Partnerships. A museum shall prioritize

1 partnerships between the museum and historians, educators, and  
2 cultural leaders regarding exhibits in the museum to ensure  
3 that the exhibits are balanced and fact-based.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
5 1, 2027.