

HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE (delete this box before use)

Replace the highlighted [bracketed] text with your details. Your municipal clerk may reformat the resolution to match your council's conventions; the operative clauses are the substance. One recital and one operative clause are marked optional.

A short set of speaking notes for the mover follows the resolution. Adapt freely. Before bringing the motion forward, a courtesy conversation with your library board chair is recommended so council and board speak with one voice.

Template prepared by the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries, June 2026. Questions: contact CAP Libraries through caplibraries.ca.

Template Council Resolution

Regulations under Bill 28 affecting public library service in [community]

Moved by [Councillor name]:

WHEREAS public library service in [community] is provided by [library name] under the governance of a library board appointed under the Libraries Act, and is funded primarily by municipal taxpayers;

WHEREAS Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, amended the Libraries Act to provide for ministerial inspection of library boards and public libraries, regulation of access to, use of and borrowing of library materials including age-based restrictions, and ministerial guidelines respecting explicit materials;

WHEREAS the Minister of Municipal Affairs has publicly described the intent of these changes as narrow in scope, involving a small number of items placed behind the counter with parental permission required for borrowing by children 15 and under;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has indicated that no new provincial funding will accompany implementation, and costs arising from compliance would fall to library boards and the municipalities that fund them;

WHEREAS the regulations now being developed under the amended Libraries Act will determine the scope, cost and operational impact of these changes on [library name] and on the municipal budget;

[OPTIONAL recital, adapt or delete: WHEREAS a recent survey of more than 90 Alberta public libraries conducted by the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries indicates that compliance may require changes to library space, staffing and technology systems that are significant relative to the budgets of small and rural libraries;]

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council:

1. request that the Government of Alberta consult meaningfully with libraries, library systems and municipalities in the development of regulations under the Libraries Act;
2. request that the regulations reflect the narrow scope the Minister of Municipal Affairs has described publicly;
3. request that the Government of Alberta provide provincial funding for the costs of implementing Bill 28 and its regulations;

4. request an implementation timeline of at least 18 months from the date regulations are finalized, so that compliance can be planned through normal municipal budget cycles;
5. [OPTIONAL clause, adapt or delete: direct Administration to report to Council on the anticipated local cost and service implications for [library name] once the regulations are released;] and
6. direct Administration to forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, to [MLA name], MLA for [constituency], to the Board of [library name], to [regional library system, if applicable], to Alberta Municipalities or the Rural Municipalities of Alberta as applicable, and to the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries.

Speaking notes for the mover

Sixty to ninety seconds. Adapt as suits your council.

- This motion takes no position on the goals of Bill 28. It accepts the Minister's stated intent at face value and asks the province to deliver on it: narrow scope, real consultation, funding for what it requires, and time to implement properly.
- The bill has passed. The regulations are being written now, and they will decide whether this is a minor adjustment or a significant unfunded cost to our community. This is the window when council's voice matters.
- The province has confirmed there is no new funding attached. Whatever compliance requires, whether renovations, staff time or system changes, lands in our budget. Asking the province to fund its own rules is a reasonable position for any council, whatever members think of the policy itself.
- [Library name] is governed by our local board and funded by our taxpayers. This motion supports the board, supports the people who use the library, and asks the province to work with communities like ours as it finishes the job.