

SB 1583 was a surprise today on the Floor of the Senate. It was not on the Third Reading list. Democrats requested a suspension of the Constitution with several Republicans voting with them. SB 1583 per proponents and opponents is about free speech in the form of books in schools. However, stated proponent intentions do not match the bill language. Likewise, opponent's intent claim for the bill does not match the bill language. In a meeting with the Chief Sponsor it was agreed neither side as it right. Not a good situation. Ninety percent of the debate on the Floor did not match the language of the bill either. It was clear proponents and opponents were talking past each other. Again, not a good situation. Then there were quotes allegedly from Legislative Counsel from each side of the debate that contradicted each other. A worse situation for an issue already in the courts. Claims of racism, inaccuracies, targeting a single school, and the state grab of power from local school districts all weight against passage of the bill at this time. It is clear there is an issue. Further, that issue needs vetted before making mistakes in statute.