

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9986

To require a GAO study on State and Federal prison libraries, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2026

Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. SIMON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. THANEDAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require a GAO study on State and Federal prison
libraries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Read for Reentry Act
5 of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. GAO STUDY.**

7 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
8 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
9 shall conduct a study on libraries and library services of-

1 ferred in State and Federal prisons, and submit to Con-
2 gress a report, that—

3 (1) includes a description of any library services
4 provided in such prisons;

5 (2) identifies any sources of funding for such li-
6 braries and library services;

7 (3) includes the demographic information of all
8 incarcerated individuals in State and Federal prisons
9 that offer library services, including—

10 (A) age;

11 (B) race;

12 (C) ethnicity;

13 (D) gender identity;

14 (E) level of education;

15 (F) criminal background; and

16 (G) length of incarceration;

17 (4) identifies the prison recidivism rate for an
18 individual released from a State or Federal prison
19 that offers library services;

20 (5) identifies the parole compliance rate for an
21 individual released from a State or Federal prison
22 that offers library services;

23 (6) includes a description about workforce
24 placement for individuals released from a State or
25 Federal prison that offers library services;

1 (7) identifies the rate of disciplinary infractions
2 (as defined by the Director of the Bureau of Pris-
3 ons) involving an incarcerated individual in a State
4 or Federal prison that offers library services; and
5 (8) includes any other relevant information or
6 findings, as determined by the Comptroller General,
7 with respect to such libraries and library services.

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