

## **LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Administrative Code - Library Read to Recovery Program]

**Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the Library Read to Recovery Program to provide at the Main Library and all Library branches free written materials and books from mutual-help programs, for individuals who seek recovery from substance-use disorders and non-substance-related addictive disorders.**

### Existing Law

The Library Read to Recovery Program is a new initiative, which is not addressed by existing law.

### Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance adds Chapter 123A to the Administrative Code to establish the Library Read to Recovery Program. The ordinance would require the San Francisco Public Library to establish the Read to Recovery Program, through which the Library shall make available to the public a wide selection of written materials and books from mutual-help programs for recovery from substance-use disorders and non-substance-related addictive disorders. The ordinance would require that written materials and books offered through the Read to Recovery Program be free to keep and be made available in all languages, as reasonably available to the Library for acquisition and distribution. The ordinance would require the Library to offer written materials and books through the Read to Recovery Program at each of its Library branch locations, in addition to the Main Branch of the Library, by no later than July 1, 2025. The proposed ordinance also includes a requirement that the Library conduct a public informational campaign about the Read to Recovery Program.

### Background Information

Written materials and books are a foundational element in most mutual-help recovery traditions, and there is a compelling societal interest in lowering access barriers to these resources. Given the societal interest and urgent imperative presented by a historically unprecedented public health crisis involving substance use disorder, the Read to Recovery Program would require San Francisco's Public Library to offer universal access to free-to-keep written materials and books for programs serving those who seek to recover or maintain recovery from substance-use disorders and non-substance-related addictive disorders.