HOUSE BILL 653

F5 4lr2555

By: **Delegate Luedtke**
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Education – Deaf Culture Digital Library

FOR the purpose of requiring the Division of Library Development and Services in the Department of Education to establish the Deaf Culture Digital Library; specifying the mission, duties, and responsibilities of the Deaf Culture Digital Library; and generally relating to the Deaf Culture Digital Library.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 23–105
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 23–108
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

23–105.

(a) In addition to any other powers granted and duties imposed by this title, and subject to the authority of the State Board, the Division of Library Development and Services has the powers and duties set forth in this section.

(b) The Division of Library Development and Services shall:

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.

(1) Provide leadership and guidance for the planning and coordinated development of library and information service in this State;

(2) Develop statewide public and school library services and networks, resource centers, and other arrangements to meet the library and information needs of this State;

(3) Provide professional and technical advice on improving library services in this State to:

(i) Public and school library officials;

(ii) State government agencies; and

(iii) Any other person;

(4) (i) Collect library statistics and other data;

(ii) Identify library needs and provide for needed research and studies of them;

(iii) Publish and distribute findings in these areas; and

(iv) Coordinate library services with other information and education services and agencies;

(5) Administer federal and State funds appropriated to it by the State for library purposes;

(6) (i) Develop and recommend professional standards and policies for libraries; and

(ii) Establish requirements and procedures for the certification of librarians and library personnel;

(7) Provide:

(i) Specialized library service to the blind and other physically handicapped individuals in this State; and

(ii) Other desirable specialized library services;

(8) Encourage, advise, and assist in establishing, operating, and coordinating libraries at State institutions and agencies and administer the operation of library and information services for the Department;

(9) Administer the State grant program for county public library capital projects, in accordance with § 23–510 of this title;

(10) Adopt guidelines for the administration of public libraries and recommend to the State Board rules and regulations to implement this title;

(11) Cooperate with national library agencies and those of any other state; **[**and**]**

(12) DEVELOP A DEAF CULTURE DIGITAL LIBRARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 23–108 OF THIS TITLE; AND

[(12)**] (13)** Perform any other duty necessary for its proper operation.

23–108.

(A) THE DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES SHALL ESTABLISH THE DEAF CULTURE DIGITAL LIBRARY AS THE PRIMARY INFORMATION CENTER ON DEAF RESOURCES FOR LIBRARY CUSTOMERS AND STAFF IN THE STATE.

(B) THE DEAF CULTURE DIGITAL LIBRARY SHALL:

(1) CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY GAPS IN LIBRARY SERVICES FOR DEAF PATRONS AND TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES TO FILL THE GAPS AND BETTER COORDINATE LIBRARY SERVICES FOR THE DEAF;

(2) IN COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING, DEVELOP AND PROVIDE SENSITIVITY TRAINING FOR STATE AND COUNTY LIBRARY STAFF TO HELP THEM BETTER UNDERSTAND DEAF PATRONS AND THEIR NEEDS;

(3) DEVELOP A WEB SITE THAT WILL ALLOW FOR INFORMATION SHARING AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEAF CULTURE DIGITAL LIBRARY AND COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEMS;

(4) IN COORDINATION WITH THE DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES, DEVELOP DEAF–RELATED PROGRAMS AND MATERIALS AND SHARE THEM WITH COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEMS AND OTHER LIBRARIES IN THE STATE;

(5) DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, INCLUDING:

(I) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING;

(II) COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEMS;

(III) THE DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES;

(IV) VETERANS' GROUPS;

(V) STATE AND LOCAL ARTS COUNCILS;

(VI) SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS;

(VII) DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING:

1. THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF;

2. THE HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA; AND

3. THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF;

(6) ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH INFORMATION SERVICE PROVIDERS TO HELP PROVIDE VIRTUAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND RESEARCH;

(7) FORM A DEAF CULTURE DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD, THE MAJORITY OF WHOSE MEMBERS ARE CULTURALLY DEAF OR DEAF–SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS, TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON INITIATIVES THAT FURTHER ADVANCE THE MISSION AND GOALS OF THE DEAF CULTURE DIGITAL LIBRARY; AND

(8) ESTABLISH A DEAF CULTURE DIGITAL LIBRARY "FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY" GROUP COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE STRONGLY COMMITTED, WELL–POSITIONED, AND ABLE TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, ADVOCACY, AND FUNDING FOR THE DEAF CULTURE DIGITAL LIBRARY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.