

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 604

(Delegate Forbes, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Libraries - Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and State
Library Board - Alterations

This bill renames the Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to the Maryland Library for the Blind and Print Disabled and alters the membership of the Maryland State Library Board. The bill defines “print disabled individual” as an individual who cannot effectively read print because of a visual, physical, perceptual, developmental, cognitive, or learning disability. The bill also makes conforming changes in order to reflect the name change.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: One-time costs (totaling about \$16,900) to change signage and other related items associated with the bill’s changes can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources of the State Library Agency. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides comprehensive library services to eligible blind and physically handicapped residents of Maryland, which includes individuals who are legally blind, visually or physically limited, or reading disabled. The library is part of the national network of the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped through the Library of Congress. The National Library Services selects and produces

recordings of full-length books and magazines for a network of libraries providing alternative format materials. The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped supplements the National Library Service collection with large print books, descriptive videos, children's braille books, and tactile materials such as maps, atlases, and art books. Books are lent on a wide range of subjects in braille, audio, and large type. The service is free, statewide, and can be provided to individuals via the U.S. mail. Approximately 10,000 Maryland residents receive the services provided by the library annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 326 (Senator King, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Library Agency; Department of Legislative Services

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