

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 678
 Appropriations

(Delegate Spiegel, *et al.*)

Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library - Funding and Budget Submission

This bill requires the Governor to include a \$450,000 mandated appropriation for the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL) in the annual budget bill beginning in fiscal 2026. DCDL must submit its annual operating budget to the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) by June 1 each year. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by approximately \$49,000 annually beginning in FY 2026 due to the mandated appropriation, as discussed below. Funding in FY 2026 is discretionary. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2027.**

(in dollars)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	49,000	49,000	49,000	49,000	49,000
Net Effect	(\$49,000)	(\$49,000)	(\$49,000)	(\$49,000)	(\$49,000)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MSLA must establish DCDL as the primary information center on deaf resources for library customers and staff in the State. DCDL must conduct a needs assessment to identify and fill gaps in library services for deaf patrons; in coordination with

the Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, develop and provide sensitivity training for State and county library staff; develop a website for specified purposes; in coordination with MSLA, develop deaf-related programs and materials and share them with libraries in the State; and develop specified partnerships, collaborations, and alliances with specified government and other entities.

DCDL must also form a DCDL Advisory Board, with the majority of its members being deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals, and must develop a DCDL “Friends of the Library” group to promote community involvement, advocacy, and funding for the DCDL. The lead employee or coordinator who manages the DCDL must be deaf or hard of hearing and knowledgeable and experienced concerning issues affecting deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

State Expenditures: Although the bill establishes a \$450,000 mandated appropriation beginning in fiscal 2026, the fiscal 2026 State budget as introduced includes \$401,000 in general funds for DCDL. This analysis assumes ongoing funding at the fiscal 2026 budgeted level (\$401,000) in the out-years absent the bill. Based on this assumption, funding for DCDL is expected to increase by \$49,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2026 to fully meet the \$450,000 mandated appropriation established by the bill. Although this analysis assumes funding mandated by the bill is appropriated in fiscal 2026, actual funding for that year is discretionary.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 358 (Senator King) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Library Agency; Department of Budget and Management; Deaf & Hard of Hearing; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2025
js/clb

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510