



February 12, 2020

Senate Bill 524

Building Lifelong Library Learners Act

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 524 - Building Lifelong Library Learners Act. This Bill would prohibit a public library from charging a child a replacement fine or fee for an overdue library book until 3 months after the date on which the library book was due and require a public library to cancel or return a certain replacement fine or fee if a book is returned.

On January 6 of this year, County Executive Pittman, working with the Anne Arundel County Council and Anne Arundel County Public Library, announced that we were eliminating fines for overdue books and materials for all children and young adults in Anne Arundel County. At the time, nearly 20% of children's library cards were blocked due to old fines and fees.

This Bill will extend that same elimination of fines for children's books and materials across the State of Maryland. Under this Bill, no longer will Maryland families have to avoid going to the library because they can't pay fines. Our State is about equal access to information and education for all of its residents and this step will help to level the playing field. From now on, all of our young people can come to the library for education, enrichment, and inspiration, without embarrassment. This Bill truly will help make all of Maryland's children lifelong library learners.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 524.