



BILL: HB 208 **DATE:** January 31, 2024

SUBJECT: County Public Libraries - **COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy
Overdue Library Materials - and the Environment
Minors

SPEAKER: Irene Padilla **POSITION:** Support
State Librarian

EXPLANATION

The Building Lifelong Library Learners Act legislation was passed during the 2021 session of the General Assembly. This bill updates § 23-409. Restrictions on fines on minors' overdue library materials - Adoption of regulations. The intent of the legislation is to prevent public libraries from charging overdue fines to a minor and regulate the charging of certain fees. This revision more fully describes the purpose and intent of the legislation.

This bill ensures equity by clarifying otherwise confusing language in the statute and provides definitions for a minor (defined as an individual under the age of 18), library materials, replacement fee, overdue fine and special collections. This commonality of definitions ensures that all eligible Maryland residents, regardless of race, gender, and socioeconomic status receive equitable treatment.

This statute is relied upon by library directors and library boards for guidance to ensure that all Maryland public libraries understand and follow the same requirements. It also provides the necessary documentation if library boards or local governments try to reinstate library fines for minors at a future date.

Local government operations or finances (revenues or expenditures) will not be affected by this legislation.

MSLA fully supports the passage of this bill.