

BILL:	HB 660	DATE:	March 6, 2026
SUBJECT:	Public Libraries-State Library Resource Center-Funding	COMMITTEE:	Appropriations
TESTIMONY FROM:	Rachel Wright, Executive Director, Cecil County Public Library	POSITION:	Support

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Kaiser, and Committee Members:

Cecil County Public Library (CCPL) fully supports **HB 660 Public Libraries-State Library Resource Center-Funding**.

Fully funding the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) is critical to the success of every Marylander who relies on their public, school, and/or academic libraries for access to programs, resources, materials, and information provided by SLRC.

SLRC's coordination of the inter-county materials lending service is especially important for smaller, rural systems who are limited in the breadth and depth of materials they are able to offer their residents. This is especially true in counties where the budget allocation from their individual counties do not fully cover the collection budget costs required to meet the needs of the community. Additionally, SLRC's statewide SAILOR service directly addresses the digital divide by ensuring all municipalities receive access to high-speed broadband Internet.

As community need increases, so to do the costs of providing these essential services. Additional funding is needed; therefore, to ensure SLRC continues to effectively serve library systems across the state. The current funding level of \$2.07/state resident is not currently and will not in the future be sufficient; we respectfully ask that you support per capita increases as requested for years FY28-FY32 and beyond.

The impact of SLRC on every library system and resident of the state of MD cannot be overstated. Whether through the nearly 300,000 items borrowed using the Statewide Interlibrary Loan Network, the 1.5 million instances of students in K-12 schools using SLRC databases, or the 380,000 in-person visits to SLRC's physical location, the success of public, school, and academic libraries are dependent upon the success of SLRC. And, the success of SLRC is dependent upon it being fully funded, as prescribed in HB 660.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Maryland libraries and communities.

Truly,



Rachel Wright
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