

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 518 (Delegate Krvsiak. *et al.*)

Ways and Means

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**Public Libraries - Minimum Library Program - Maintenance of Effort**

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This bill prohibits a county from using State aid intended for the minimum library program to meet any other obligation for the maintenance of local funding for libraries.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The State share of the minimum library program would remain the same.

**Local Effect:** None. Local appropriations to public libraries already exceed the minimum State requirement.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** The State minimum library program was established in 1962 to provide financial assistance to county public library systems. The State provides about 40% of the total cost of the minimum program and the counties provide 60%. The State share of the total is divided among the counties according to their relative wealth, with no county receiving less than 20% of its minimum program. Three counties (Montgomery, Talbot, and Worcester) receive the minimum State share. The minimum library program in fiscal 1999 totals \$47.3 million (\$9.25 per resident), with the State contribution totaling \$19.75 million. State aid under this program can only be used for library purposes.

**Local Effect:** County public library systems receive on average around 74% of their revenue from local governments and 19% from the State. As shown in **Exhibit 1**, local governments provided three times more funding to public libraries in fiscal 1997 than the State. As a condition to receive State library aid under the minimum library program, local governments must provide a minimum level of local funding to the county public library system. In fiscal 1999, the required minimum local appropriation will total \$28.4 million. Currently, all local governments fulfill this minimum funding requirement. Since local appropriations to public libraries already exceed the minimum State requirement by over \$69.2 million and since local governments are already prohibited from using State library aid to satisfy the required minimum local appropriation, this bill should not affect local finances in fiscal 1999.

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**Information Source:** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 1998  
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**Exhibit 1  
Local Library Funding Statistics**

<u>County</u>	<u>Library Budget (FY 1997)</u>	<u>State Library Funding (FY 1997)</u>	<u>County Appropriation (FY 1997)</u>	<u>Minimum Local Appropriation - FY 99 (\$9.25 program)</u>	<u>Local Amount Above Minimum Requirement</u>
Allegany	\$931,812	\$410,862	\$445,000	\$216,404	\$228,596
Anne Arundel	11,871,400	1,231,308	9,966,092	2,930,276	7,035,816
Baltimore City	20,705,847	8,100,762	12,246,085	1,840,212	10,405,873
Baltimore	22,527,355	1,918,065	17,439,290	4,015,837	13,423,453
Calvert	1,307,953	145,826	1,131,527	461,757	669,770
Caroline	896,971	146,971	750,000	108,648	641,352
Carroll	5,204,649	464,819	4,405,735	787,106	3,618,629
Cecil	1,318,108	291,382	856,892	397,022	459,870
Charles	1,729,298	377,863	1,054,900	643,403	411,497
Dorchester	672,468	137,134	353,000	126,894	226,106
Frederick	2,631,400	528,000	2,023,400	1,056,738	966,662
Garrett	431,300	112,558	260,000	141,175	118,825
Harford	6,466,083	761,351	5,283,032	1,089,973	4,193,059
Howard	8,429,805	363,330	7,090,660	1,686,066	5,404,594
Kent	351,738	58,275	278,463	110,412	168,051
Montgomery	23,760,380	2,754,550	19,398,790	6,778,575	12,620,215
Prince George's	15,486,916	5,056,330	9,714,302	3,638,816	6,075,486
Queen Anne's	883,595	82,511	757,520	252,298	505,222
St. Mary's	1,310,504	323,381	891,033	407,470	483,563
Somerset	362,484	140,346	217,138	63,003	154,135
Talbot	447,485	53,460	339,900	275,719	64,181
Washington	1,864,487	583,427	1,040,000	546,922	493,078
Wicomico	1,462,236	368,870	915,593	327,610	587,983
Worcester	769,396	52,000	707,396	456,388	251,008
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$131,823,670</b>	<b>\$24,463,381</b>	<b>\$97,565,748</b>	<b>\$28,358,724</b>	<b>\$69,207,024</b>

*Prepared by the Department of Legislative Services, February 1998  
Source: County Budgets*

