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By: **Delegates Zirkin, Morhaim, Finifter, Giannetti, Phillips, and Montague**  
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 1999  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Libraries - Technology Centers - Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a network of technology centers under the Division of  
4 Library Development and Services; authorizing the Department of Education to  
5 include funds for the network in its budget; requiring the State to fund all  
6 capital expenses for the network; establishing certain guidelines for the  
7 network; funding the network; providing that funding for the network may not  
8 supplant certain other existing funding; requiring the Department, in  
9 consultation with the Division, to adopt regulations to implement this Act; and  
10 generally relating to technology centers under the Division.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - Education  
13 Section 23-205(a) and (b)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

16 BY adding to  
17 Article - Education  
18 Section 23-207  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article - Education**

24 23-205.

25 (a) Each year, the Department may include in its budget operating funds for:

26 (1) The State Library Resource Center;

27 (2) Each regional resource center; [and]

1 (3) Each metropolitan cooperative service program; AND

2 (4) A NETWORK OF TECHNOLOGY CENTERS ESTABLISHED UNDER §  
3 23-207 OF THIS ARTICLE.

4 (b) (1) The State shall pay all capital expenses for:

5 (i) The State Library Resource Center; [and]

6 (ii) Each regional resource center; AND

7 (III) A NETWORK OF TECHNOLOGY CENTERS ESTABLISHED UNDER §  
8 23-207 OF THIS ARTICLE.

9 (2) Before any money is spent under this subsection, the appropriate  
10 board of library trustees shall:

11 (i) Have the project approved by the Department;

12 (ii) Through the Department, submit the request to the  
13 Department of Budget and Management for consideration under Subtitle 6, Title 3 of  
14 the State Finance and Procurement Article; and

15 (iii) Agree to reimburse the Department an amount the Department  
16 determines if the facility ceases to be used for a resource center or cooperative service  
17 program.

18 23-207.

19 (A) THE DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES SHALL  
20 DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, AND MAINTAIN WITHIN THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF  
21 LIBRARIES A NETWORK OF TECHNOLOGY CENTERS IN AREAS OF THE STATE THAT  
22 ARE CENTRALLY LOCATED AND ACCESSIBLE.

23 (B) A TECHNOLOGY CENTER SHALL FOCUS ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND  
24 EXHIBITS AND SHALL INCLUDE INTERNET ACCESS AND TRAINING, VIRTUAL REALITY  
25 TECHNOLOGY, SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY, AND OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRAMS  
26 AND EXHIBITS.

27 (C) IN FISCAL YEAR 2000 AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR  
28 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET FUNDING FOR THE TECHNOLOGY CENTERS,  
29 IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE TOTAL COST OF DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING, AND  
30 MAINTAINING THE NETWORK OF TECHNOLOGY CENTERS.

31 (D) APPROPRIATIONS MADE UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED TO  
32 SUPPLANT THE EXISTING FUNDING FOR THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF LIBRARIES  
33 UNDER § 23-205(A)(1) THROUGH (3) AND (B)(1)(I) AND (II) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

34 (E) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIVISION, SHALL ADOPT  
35 REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 June 1, 1999.