

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 403

(Senator Conway, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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**Libraries - Enoch Pratt Free Library - Board of Trustees**

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This bill imposes a city residency requirement for members of the Board of Trustees of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The bill also authorizes the board of trustees to appoint a special committee, standing committee, or advisory committee; however, members of these committees are not permitted to vote on any issue before the board of trustees unless the member is also a member of the board of trustees.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. This bill codifies existing practices of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore City.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The governance structure of the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the powers and duties of the board of trustees are established in Chapter 181 of 1882.

**Background:** The Enoch Pratt Free Library serves as the public library system in Baltimore City and as the State Library Resource Center. It was established in 1882 through a donation from Enoch Pratt who insisted that the library serve all city residents, “rich and poor without distinction of race or color.” The Enoch Pratt Free Library is administered by a private self-perpetuating board of trustees.

### *Governance Structure*

According to the by-laws of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the board of trustees has ultimate responsibility for the control and management of the library. The board of trustees appoints a board of directors to carry out the management and affairs of the library under the oversight and control of the board of trustees. The board of trustees must meet at least annually during the month of October to approve the actions of the board of directors.

The board of trustees must consist of 9 to 50 members. Currently, the board has 27 trustees. A library trustee must be a State citizen and reside in Baltimore City. Trustees can serve an unlimited number of years as long as they maintain their city residency and attend annual meetings. If a trustee fails to attend three consecutive annual board meetings without being excused by the chairman, the trustee's position becomes automatically vacant. The board of trustees is responsible for appointing new trustees.

The board of trustees elects the members of the board of directors. Members of the board of directors must be State residents and a majority must be members of the board of trustees. Whereas the trustees must be Baltimore City residents, members of the board of directors do not have to reside in Baltimore City. Members of the board of directors are elected to three-year terms and can serve a maximum of two terms. The board of directors can consist of up to 25 members. The board of directors must hold its annual meeting in October following the annual meeting of the board of trustees plus three other regular meetings.

### *State Library Funding*

The Enoch Pratt Free Library was designated the State Library Resource Center by the General Assembly in 1971. This designation and accompanying State support allow all Maryland citizens to have access to the public library system. Acting in place of the state library that exists in most states, the State Library Resource Center works cooperatively with other libraries in a network that allows materials and information to be shared statewide.

State funding for the Enoch Pratt Free Library comes from two primary sources: (1) the County-State Minimum Library Program; and (2) the State Library Resource Center grant. In fiscal 2003, the Enoch Pratt Free Library will receive \$14.6 million from the State, \$5.4 million under the County-State Minimum Library Program, \$9.1 million under the State Library Resource Center grant, and \$0.1 million for operating the library at the Baltimore City Detention Center.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Sources:** Enoch Pratt Free Library, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2002  
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