

HOUSE BILL 685

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CF SB 448

By: **Delegates C. Branch, Amprey, Attar, Ebersole, Foley, Henson, Jackson, D. Jones, R. Lewis, McIntosh, Palakovich Carr, and Smith**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 12, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Regional Resource Centers and Libraries – Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the calculation of certain funding for certain regional resource
4 centers and each county public library system for certain fiscal years; requiring each
5 public library to offer at least one type of service beginning on a certain date; and
6 generally relating to the public libraries in the State.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Education

9 Section 23–202(b)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Education

14 Section 23–205(c) and 23–503

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Education

19 Section 23–410

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 23–202.

5 (b) Each regional resource center shall provide, through mutual cooperation and
6 coordination, books, information, and other material and service resources that an
7 individual library cannot provide adequately by itself.

8 23–205.

9 (c) (1) Each year each participating regional resource center shall receive a
10 minimum amount of funding for each resident of the area served, to be used for operating
11 and capital expenses.

12 (2) The allocation shall be calculated as follows:

13 (i) For each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015.....\$6.75 per each
14 resident of the area served;

15 (ii) For fiscal year 2016..... \$6.95 per each resident of the area
16 served;

17 (iii) For fiscal year 2017..... \$7.15 per each resident of the area
18 served;

19 (iv) For fiscal year 2018..... \$7.55 per each resident of the area
20 served;

21 (v) For fiscal year 2019..... \$7.95 per each resident of the area
22 served;

23 (vi) For fiscal year 2020..... \$8.35 per each resident of the area
24 served;

25 (vii) For fiscal year 2021..... \$8.55 per each resident of the area
26 served; [and]

27 (viii) For fiscal year 2022 [and each fiscal year thereafter].....
28 \$8.75 per each resident of the area served;

29 **(IX) FOR FISCAL YEAR ~~2023~~ 2024..... ~~\$9.10~~ \$8.95 PER EACH**
30 **RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;**

1 (X) FOR FISCAL YEAR ~~2024~~ 2025..... ~~\$9.65~~ \$9.15 PER EACH
2 RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

3 (XI) FOR FISCAL YEAR ~~2025~~ 2026..... ~~\$10.13~~ \$9.35 PER EACH
4 RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

5 (XII) FOR FISCAL YEAR ~~2026~~ 2027..... ~~\$10.64~~ \$10.33 PER EACH
6 RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED; AND

7 (XIII) FOR FISCAL YEAR ~~2027~~ 2028 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
8 THEREAFTER.....~~\$11.17~~ \$10.35 PER EACH
9 RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED.

10 23-410.

11 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, EACH PUBLIC LIBRARY MUST OFFER AT LEAST
12 ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ALONE OR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITS OF
13 GOVERNMENT OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

14 (1) A PROGRAM TO INCREASE SCORES ON THE KINDERGARTEN
15 ASSESSMENT ADMINISTERED UNDER § 7-210 OF THIS ARTICLE;

16 (2) A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO CLOSE LEARNING GAPS CREATED BY
17 LACK OF ACCESS TO EDUCATION, INCLUDING LEARNING GAPS THAT OCCURRED
18 DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC;

19 (3) AN INITIATIVE TO EXPAND DIGITAL EQUITY AND ACCESS TO FREE
20 COMPUTING AND BROADBAND INTERNET;

21 (4) AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY
22 INSTRUCTION AND SKILLS, HEALTH LITERACY, INSTRUCTION ON OPERATING A
23 SMALL BUSINESS, AND INSTRUCTION ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;

24 (5) SERVING AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND DISTRIBUTION SITE
25 DURING PUBLIC EMERGENCIES;

26 (6) A PROGRAM TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO STEM EDUCATION,
27 INCLUDING BY PROVIDING ACTIVITIES, CLASSES, PROGRAMS, AND EVENTS; AND

28 (7) SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND REDUCING SOCIAL AND
29 PHYSICAL ISOLATION.

30 23-503.

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1 (a) (1) The entire capital and operating cost of the minimum library program
2 for this State as a whole shall be shared as provided in this subsection.

3 (2) The State shall provide:

4 (i) Approximately 40 percent of the total cost of the minimum
5 program; and

6 (ii) Not less than 20 percent of the cost of the minimum program in
7 any county.

8 (3) The counties participating in the program together shall provide
9 through local taxes approximately 60 percent of the total statewide cost of the minimum
10 program.

11 (b) (1) Each county public library system that participates in the minimum
12 library program shall be provided for each resident of the county, to be used for operating
13 and capital expenses:

14 (i) For each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015 – \$14.00;

15 (ii) For fiscal year 2016 – \$14.27;

16 (iii) For fiscal year 2017 – \$14.54;

17 (iv) For fiscal year 2018 – \$15.00;

18 (v) For fiscal year 2019 – \$15.50;

19 (vi) For fiscal year 2020 – \$16.00;

20 (vii) For fiscal year 2021 – \$16.43; [and]

21 (viii) For EACH OF fiscal [year] YEARS 2022 and [each fiscal year
22 thereafter] 2023 – \$17.10;

23 (IX) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 – ~~\$17.78~~ \$17.30;

24 (X) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 – ~~\$18.50~~ \$17.50;

25 (XI) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 – ~~\$19.24~~ \$17.70; AND

26 (XII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
27 THEREAFTER – ~~\$20.00~~ \$17.90.

28 (2) (i) The State shall share in this amount.

1 (ii) Any county may provide an amount greater than its share under
2 the cooperative program, but the State may not share in the excess.

3 (c) Any employer Social Security contributions required by federal law for any
4 employee in a county public library system shall remain the obligation of the employer.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2022.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.