

Chapter 496

(House Bill 685)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Regional Resource Centers and Libraries – Funding

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

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Education
Section 23–202(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 23–205(c) and 23–503
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 23–410
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

23–202.

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

23–205.

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

(2) The allocation shall be calculated as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(IX) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023\$9.19 PER EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

(X) FOR FISCAL YEAR ~~2023~~ 2024..... ~~\$9.19~~ ~~\$8.95~~ \$9.39 PER EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

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

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

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

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

(XI) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.....\$9.59 PER EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

(XII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026..... \$9.79 PER EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED; AND

(XIII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER.....\$9.99 PER EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED.

23-410.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23-503.

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

(2) The State shall provide:

- (i) Approximately 40 percent of the total cost of the minimum program; and
- (ii) Not less than 20 percent of the cost of the minimum program in any county.

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

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

- (i) For each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015 – \$14.00;
- (ii) For fiscal year 2016 – \$14.27;
- (iii) For fiscal year 2017 – \$14.54;
- (iv) For fiscal year 2018 – \$15.00;
- (v) For fiscal year 2019 – \$15.50;
- (vi) For fiscal year 2020 – \$16.00;
- (vii) For fiscal year 2021 – \$16.43; [and]
- ~~(viii) For EACH OF fiscal [year] YEARS 2022 and [each fiscal year thereafter] 2023 – \$17.10;~~
- ~~(IX) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 – \$17.78 \$17.30;~~
- ~~(X) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 – \$18.50 \$17.50;~~
- ~~(XI) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 – \$19.24 \$17.70; AND~~
- ~~(XII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER – \$20.00 \$17.90.~~
- (VIII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 – \$17.10;
- (IX) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 – \$17.50;

(X) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 – \$17.90;

(XI) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 – \$18.30;

(XII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 – \$18.70; AND

(XIII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 – \$19.10.

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

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

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

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

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 29, 2022.