

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 196 (Delegate Thiam)
Ways and Means

Public Schools and County Boards of Education - Publication of School Library Catalogs

This bill requires each public school to provide a copy of the school’s library catalog to the county board of education. Further, the bill requires each county board to compile and post each school’s library catalog on the county board’s website. Each year by September 15, each public school must send a link to the library catalogs to the parents and guardians of students who attend the school. The link may be sent electronically, by mail, or by sending the information home with students. Each county board must adopt regulations to carry out the bill’s requirements. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill’s requirements can be handled with existing resources. Several local school systems already provide parents and guardians with links to school library catalogs.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, the Maryland State Library Agency is charged with developing statewide public and school library services and networks, resource centers, and other arrangements to meet the library and information needs of the State.

Local Fiscal Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education advises that all local school systems have an online library catalog. Any local school system that does not

currently provide a link of their online catalog on the county board website will have to do so, but this requirement can be implemented with existing resources.

Local school systems in Anne Arundel, Frederick, and St. Mary's counties indicate that their schools already maintain online catalogs and that those catalogs can be linked to the county board websites using existing resources. Similarly, Prince George's County indicates that the current library catalog costs are already included in the annual budget and that existing library media services staff can implement the bill's requirement.

Baltimore City Public Schools advises that, while the library database systems currently in place will allow the city board to publish school library catalogs, because some schools do not have a full-time librarian position, those library catalogs may not be fully up to date.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 2022
fnu2/hlb

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510