

HOUSE BILL 243

P3, F5

3lr1366
CF SB 300

By: **Delegates Korman and Solomon**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City Young Readers Program – ~~Expansion and~~ and Young Readers**
3 **Matching Grant Program – Alterations**
4 **(Young Readers Program ~~Expansion~~ Act of 2023)**

5 FOR the purpose of ~~altering~~ transferring the Baltimore City Young Readers Program ~~to be~~
6 ~~the Statewide Young Readers Program; establishing the Program within and the~~
7 Young Readers Matching Grant Program to the Maryland State Library Agency;
8 ~~altering the purpose of the Program; and requiring the State Librarian to administer~~
9 ~~the Program; programs; altering the purpose of the programs; authorizing public~~
10 libraries to apply for program grants grants from the Young Readers Matching Grant
11 Program; requiring program grant applicants to prioritize the distribution of books
12 ~~to children in low income zip codes within the applicants' area of service; and~~
13 generally relating to the Baltimore City Young Readers Program and the Young
14 Readers Matching Grant Program.

15 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
16 ~~Article – Human Services~~
17 ~~Section 8-1401 through 8-1403~~
18 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
19 ~~(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)~~

20 BY repealing
21 Article – Human Services
22 Section 8-1401
23 Annotated Code of Maryland

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 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

2 BY transferring

3 Article – Human Services

4 Section 8–1402 and 8–1403

5 Annotated Code of Maryland

6 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

7 to be

8 Article – Education

9 Section 23–110 and 23–111, respectively,

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Education

14 Section 23–110 and 23–111

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2022 Replacement Volume)

17 (As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That Section(s) 8–1401 of Article – Human Services of the Annotated Code of Maryland be
20 repealed.

21 SECTION 2. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

22 That Section(s) 8–1402 and 8–1403 of Article – Human Services of the Annotated Code of
23 Maryland be transferred to be Section(s) 23–110 and 23–111, respectively, of Article –
24 Education of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

25 SECTION ~~4~~ 3. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

26 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

27 Article – ~~Human Services~~ **Education**

28 ~~§ 1401.~~

29 ~~In this subtitle, “early reader organization” means a nonprofit organization:~~

30 ~~(1) that is tax exempt under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and~~

31 ~~(2) whose mission is to [mail] DISTRIBUTE to children free, high quality~~
32 ~~books designed to aid the development of reading skills.~~

33 ~~§ 1402. 23–110.~~

34 (a) (1) In this section, “Program” means the [Baltimore City] STATEWIDE

35 ~~Young Readers Program~~ **THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

1 **(2) “EARLY READER ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NONPROFIT**
 2 **ORGANIZATION:**

3 **(I) THAT IS TAX EXEMPT UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL**
 4 **REVENUE CODE; AND**

5 **(II) WHOSE MISSION IS TO DISTRIBUTE TO CHILDREN FREE,**
 6 **HIGH-QUALITY BOOKS DESIGNED TO AID THE DEVELOPMENT OF READING SKILLS.**

7 **(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE BALTIMORE CITY YOUNG READERS**
 8 **PROGRAM.**

9 (b) There is a ~~{Baltimore City} STATEWIDE~~ Young Readers Program in the
 10 ~~[Division] MARYLAND~~ **STATE LIBRARY AGENCY.**

11 (c) The purpose of the Program is to work with an early reader organization to
 12 ~~[mail] DISTRIBUTE~~ free, high-quality books to children in ~~{Baltimore City} MARYLAND.~~

13 (d) The ~~[Deputy Director] STATE LIBRARIAN~~ shall:

14 (1) ~~administer~~ **ADMINISTER** the Program; and

15 (2) ~~carry~~ **CARRY** out the Program in partnership with an early reader
 16 organization partner.

17 (e) For each fiscal year, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an
 18 appropriation of \$200,000 to the Program.

19 ~~§ 1403. 23-111.~~

20 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (2) “Affiliated service” means a book-gifting service performed by a
 22 nonprofit organization that is tax exempt under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
 23 or a unit of State, county, or municipal government that forms an affiliated partnership
 24 with an early reader organization.

25 **(3) “EARLY READER ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NONPROFIT**
 26 **ORGANIZATION:**

27 **(I) THAT IS TAX EXEMPT UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL**
 28 **REVENUE CODE; AND**

1 (II) WHOSE MISSION IS TO DISTRIBUTE TO CHILDREN FREE,
 2 HIGH-QUALITY BOOKS DESIGNED TO AID THE DEVELOPMENT OF READING SKILLS.

3 (4) “Program” means the Young Readers Matching Grant Program.

4 (b) There is a Young Readers Matching Grant Program in the [Division]
 5 ~~MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY AGENCY~~.

6 (c) The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to **PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND**
 7 affiliated services to:

8 (1) ~~support~~ **SUPPORT** the establishment and operation of affiliated
 9 services; and

10 (2) ~~contribute~~ **CONTRIBUTE** an amount equal to the amount of funding
 11 provided for the operation of an affiliated service.

12 (d) The [Deputy Director] **STATE LIBRARIAN** shall administer the Program.

13 (e) (1) [An] **A PUBLIC LIBRARY OR AN** affiliated service may submit an
 14 application for a program grant on the form that the [Deputy Director] **STATE LIBRARIAN**
 15 requires.

16 (2) An application for a program grant shall include a plan to ensure that
 17 the **PUBLIC LIBRARY OR THE** affiliated service is able to gift books to eligible children,
 18 ~~[including] PRIORITIZING~~ children in low-income zip codes within its area of service.

19 (3) A program grant shall be disbursed to **A PUBLIC LIBRARY OR** an
 20 affiliated service that qualifies for the Program.

21 **(F) THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD SHALL:**

22 (1) ~~ON~~ **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EVERY OTHER YEAR**
 23 **THEREAFTER, REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF**
 24 **THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
 25 **ARTICLE; AND**

26 (2) ~~COLLECT~~ **COLLECT** STATISTICS AND OTHER INFORMATION
 27 **NECESSARY FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

28 [(f)] **(G)** For each fiscal year, the Governor shall include in the annual budget
 29 bill an appropriation of [~~\$250,000~~ ~~\$500,000~~ **\$350,000**] to the Program.

30 SECTION ~~2~~ **4** AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 31 October 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.