

# HOUSE BILL 243

P3, F5

(3lr1366)

## ENROLLED BILL

— Ways and Means/Education, Energy, and the Environment —

Introduced by **Delegates Korman and Solomon**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

### 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.

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#### 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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



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

BY repealing  
 Article – Human Services  
 Section 8–1401  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY transferring  
 Article – Human Services  
 Section 8–1402 and 8–1403  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

to be  
 Article – Education  
 Section 23–110 and 23–111, respectively,  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2022 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Education  
 Section 23–110 and 23–111  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2022 Replacement Volume)  
 (As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That Section(s) 8–1401 of Article – Human Services of the Annotated Code of Maryland be  
repealed.

SECTION 2. ~~AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY~~  
~~OF MARYLAND,~~ That Section(s) 8–1402 and 8–1403 of Article – Human Services of the  
Annotated Code of Maryland be transferred to be Section(s) 23–110 and 23–111,  
respectively, of Article – Education of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

SECTION ~~4~~ 3. ~~AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY~~  
~~OF MARYLAND,~~ That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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

~~8–1401.~~

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

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

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

4 ~~§ 1402, 23-110.~~

5           (a) **(1)** In this section, ~~“Program” means the [Baltimore City] STATEWIDE~~  
6 ~~Young Readers Program~~ **THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

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

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

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

13                   **(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE BALTIMORE CITY YOUNG READERS**  
14 **PROGRAM.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 ~~§ 1403, 23-111.~~

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

27                   (2) “Affiliated service” means a book-gifting service performed by a  
28 nonprofit organization that is tax exempt under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

1 or a unit of State, county, or municipal government that forms an affiliated partnership  
2 with an early reader organization.

3 (3) “EARLY READER ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NONPROFIT  
4 ORGANIZATION:

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

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

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

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

12 (c) The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND  
13 affiliated services to:

14 (1) ~~support~~ SUPPORT the establishment and operation of affiliated  
15 services; and

16 (2) ~~contribute~~ CONTRIBUTE an amount equal to the amount of funding  
17 provided for the operation of an affiliated service.

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

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

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

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

27 (F) THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD SHALL:

28 (1) ~~ON~~ ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EVERY OTHER YEAR  
29 THEREAFTER, REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF  
30 THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT  
31 ARTICLE; AND

1                   (2) ~~COLLECT~~ COLLECT STATISTICS AND OTHER INFORMATION  
2 NECESSARY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.