

HOUSE BILL 243

P3, F5

3lr1366
CF 3lr1370

By: **Delegates Korman and Solomon**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Human Services
13 Section 8–1401 through 8–1403
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Human Services**

19 8–1401.

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 8–1402.

2 (a) In this section, “Program” means the [Baltimore City] STATEWIDE Young
3 Readers Program.

4 (b) There is a [Baltimore City] STATEWIDE Young Readers Program in the
5 [Division] MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY AGENCY.

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

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

9 (1) administer the Program; and

10 (2) carry out the Program in partnership with an early reader organization
11 partner.

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

14 8–1403.

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

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

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

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

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

25 (1) support the establishment and operation of affiliated services; and

26 (2) contribute an amount equal to the amount of funding provided for the
27 operation of an affiliated service.

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

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

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

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

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

10 (1) **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EVERY OTHER YEAR**
11 **THEREAFTER, REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF**
12 **THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
13 **ARTICLE; AND**

14 (2) **COLLECT STATISTICS AND OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR**
15 **THIS PURPOSE.**

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

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2023.