

# SENATE BILL 300

P3, F5

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CF HB 243

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By: **Senator McCray**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City Young Readers Program – Expansion and Alterations**

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

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

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

17 **Article – Human Services**

18 8–1401.

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

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

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

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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.