

SENATE BILL 300

P3, F5

3lr1370
CF HB 243

By: **Senator McCray**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2023

CHAPTER _____

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:

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 (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 8–1402.

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

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

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

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

12 (1) administer the Program; and

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

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

17 8–1403.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (2) **COLLECT STATISTICS AND OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR**
18 **THIS PURPOSE.**

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.