

# HOUSE BILL 208

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr0006  
CF SB 250

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By: **Chair, Ways and Means Committee (By Request – Departmental – State Library)**

Requested: September 10, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Public Libraries – Overdue Library Materials – Minors**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a county public library from charging a minor a fine for  
4 overdue library materials; prohibiting a county public library from charging a minor  
5 a replacement fee for overdue library materials, except under certain circumstances;  
6 and generally relating to fines and fees levied against minors for overdue library  
7 materials.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 23–409  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 23–409.

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

18 [(2) “Fee” means an amount charged by a public library to an individual for  
19 the replacement of library materials that have not been returned.

20 (3) “Fine for overdue library materials” includes any fine charged by a  
21 public library to an individual for not returning library materials by the due date.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) "Special collections" includes items such as cake pans, tools, and frame  
2 art.]

3 (2) "MINOR" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS.

4 (3) "OVERDUE FINE" MEANS ANY AMOUNT CHARGED BY A PUBLIC  
5 LIBRARY TO AN INDIVIDUAL FOR FAILURE TO RETURN LIBRARY MATERIALS BY THE  
6 END OF THE LOAN PERIOD.

7 (4) "REPLACEMENT FEE" MEANS ANY AMOUNT CHARGED BY A  
8 PUBLIC LIBRARY TO AN INDIVIDUAL FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF LIBRARY  
9 MATERIALS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN RETURNED AT THE TIME THE FEE IS ISSUED.

10 (5) "SPECIAL COLLECTIONS" INCLUDES LIBRARY MATERIALS SUCH  
11 AS CAKE PANS, TOOLS, FRAMED ART, AND OTHER GROUPS OF LIBRARY MATERIALS  
12 THAT POSSESS UNIQUE VALUE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR USE, AS DESIGNATED BY  
13 THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

14 (b) This section does not apply to special collections.

15 (c) (1) A public library may not charge a MINOR AN OVERDUE fine [for  
16 overdue library materials on a minor's library materials].

17 (2) (i) A public library may not charge a MINOR A REPLACEMENT fee  
18 [for a minor's overdue library materials] until 21 days after the date on which the library  
19 materials were due.

20 (ii) If a minor's overdue library materials are returned after a public  
21 library has charged a REPLACEMENT fee, the public library shall cancel the  
22 REPLACEMENT fee.

23 (III) IF A MINOR'S OVERDUE LIBRARY MATERIALS ARE  
24 RETURNED AFTER A REPLACEMENT FEE HAS BEEN PAID, THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IS  
25 NOT REQUIRED TO REFUND THE REPLACEMENT FEE.

26 (d) A public library SHALL WAIVE AND may not attempt to collect any  
27 outstanding fees for overdue library materials that are incurred by a minor after June 30,  
28 2021.

29 (e) Each board of library trustees shall adopt regulations to carry out this section.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 October 1, 2024.