

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 434

(Senator King, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

Ways and Means

Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding

This bill increases the per capita funding amounts that must be provided to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) beginning in fiscal 2025. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$770,600 in FY 2025 increasing to \$2.1 million in FY 2029; future year increases reflect higher per capita funding amounts and population increases. Revenues are not affected. FY 2025 expenditures are discretionary. **This bill increases a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2026.**

(in dollars)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	770,600	1,396,500	2,109,100	2,123,600	2,135,800
Net Effect	(\$770,600)	(\$1,396,500)	(\$2,109,100)	(\$2,123,600)	(\$2,135,800)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Although local library systems benefit from SLRC funding, local finances are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill increases per capita State aid for SLRC by \$0.10 in fiscal 2025 and by greater amounts in subsequent years. By fiscal 2027 (when per capita funding reaches \$2.24 and remains at that amount in subsequent years), the per capita State aid

increase totals \$0.27. **Exhibit 1** compares per capita State aid under current law and under the bill.

Exhibit 1
Per Capita State Library Resource Center Aid Increases under the Bill
Fiscal 2025-2031

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
2025	\$1.97	\$2.07	\$0.10	5.1%
2026	1.97	2.15	0.18	9.1%
2027	1.97	2.24	0.27	13.7%
2028	1.97	2.24	0.27	13.7%
2029	1.97	2.24	0.27	13.7%
2030	1.97	2.24	0.27	13.7%
2031	1.97	2.24	0.27	13.7%

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Current Law:

State Library Network

Since 1888, the State has provided funds to support public libraries throughout the State under what is now known as the State library network. The network consists of the Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library System in Baltimore City, three regional resource centers, and metropolitan cooperative service programs. All these systems receive State funding for operating expenses.

The Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library operates as the designated SLRC. The funding level for SLRC is set at \$1.97 per resident. Under the Governor's proposed fiscal 2025 State budget, funding for SLRC totals \$12.1 million.

Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) provides comprehensive library services to eligible blind and physically disabled residents of Maryland, which includes individuals who are legally blind, visually or physically limited, or reading disabled. The library is part of the national network of the National Library Services for the Blind and Print Disabled through the Library of Congress. The National Library Services selects and produces recordings of full-length books and magazines for a

network of libraries providing alternative format materials. LBPB supplements the National Library Service collection with large print books, descriptive videos, children’s braille books, and tactile materials such as maps, atlases, and art books. Books are lent on a wide range of subjects in braille, audio, and large type. The service is free, statewide, and can be provided to individuals via the U.S. mail. Approximately 8,400 Maryland residents receive the services provided by the library annually.

LBPB must receive an amount equivalent to at least 25% of the general fund appropriation received by SLRC under the required per capita funding amounts. Under the Governor’s proposed fiscal 2025 State budget, funding for LBPB totals \$3.5 million.

State Expenditures: Although the bill alters per capita funding amounts in fiscal 2025, the increases in funding for SLRC and LBPB (\$616,466 and \$154,117, respectively) are discretionary. As shown in **Exhibit 2**, State formula aid for SLRC increases by \$1.1 million in fiscal 2026 and, based upon current projections for population growth, by \$1.7 million by fiscal 2029. As noted above, LBPB receives an amount equivalent to at least 25% of the amount received by SLRC. As a result, expenditures for LBPB increase by \$279,304 in fiscal 2026 and by \$427,165 in fiscal 2029. However, to the extent LBPB would have been funded above the amount required by statute, LBPB increases due to the bill are less. The increase in funding for both SLRC and LBPB is shown in Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 2
Increase in Funding for SLRC and LBPB under the Bill
Fiscal 2025-2029

	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2027</u>	<u>FY 2028</u>	<u>FY 2029</u>
SLRC	\$616,466	\$1,117,214	\$1,687,284	\$1,698,845	\$1,708,661
LBPB	154,117	279,304	421,821	424,711	427,165
Total	\$770,583	\$1,396,518	\$2,109,105	\$2,123,557	\$2,135,827

LBPB: The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
SLRC: State Library Resource Center

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 348 and HB 369 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: HB 489 (Delegate D. Jones, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Library Agency; Department of Legislative Services

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