

HOUSE BILL 863

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By: **Delegate D. Jones**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Libraries – State Policy – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the State standards for libraries and the State policy for local
4 school systems operating school library media programs to clarify that programming
5 offered by a library or library media program is among the library services that must
6 be made available to all persons a library serves; and generally relating to the State
7 standards for libraries.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 4–142(a) and 23–102.1(b)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 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 4–142.

17 (a) It is the policy of the State that each local school system operate its school
18 library media program consistent with the following standards:

19 (1) The materials, services, [and] resources, **AND PROGRAMMING**
20 provided in a school library media program are provided for the interest, information, and
21 instructional support of students and school personnel of the schools the program serves;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) Materials may not be excluded from a school library media program
2 solely because of the origin, background, or views of the individual who created the
3 material; and

4 (3) Materials may not be excluded or removed from the catalogue of a
5 school library media program because of partisan, ideological, or religious disapproval.

6 23–102.1.

7 (b) It is the policy of the State that each library shall operate in a manner
8 consistent with the following standards:

9 (1) Library materials, services, [and] resources, **AND PROGRAMS** exist
10 and should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all persons the
11 library serves;

12 (2) A library should not exclude material from its catalogue because of the
13 origin, background, or views of a person who created the material; and

14 (3) A library should not prohibit or remove material from its catalogue
15 because of partisan, ideological, or religious disapproval.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2025.