

# SENATE BILL 378

F5, E4, E5

5lr1564  
CF HB 415

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By: ~~Senator A. Washington~~ Senators A. Washington, Attar, Augustine, Brooks, Feldman, Hester, Kagan, M. Washington, and Watson

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 11, 2025

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Library Agency – Family Literacy Pilot Program – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Family Literacy Pilot Program administered by the  
4 State Library Agency in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and  
5 Correctional Services and the Correctional Education Council to enable certain  
6 incarcerated individuals to read aloud to their children by preparing a recording;  
7 requiring the State Library Agency to submit a certain report on or before a certain  
8 date; and generally relating to the Family Literacy Pilot Program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Education  
11 Section 23–101(a) and (c) and 23–103  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Education  
16 Section 23–112  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

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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.



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**Article – Education**

2 23–101.

3 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (c) “State Library Agency” means the Maryland State Library Agency.

5 23–103.

6 There is a State Library Agency and a State Library Board. The State Library  
7 Agency is the central State library agency.8 **23–112.**9 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
10 **INDICATED.**11 **(2) “CHILD” MEANS A BIOLOGICAL OR ADOPTED CHILD, A**  
12 **STEPCHILD, A GRANDCHILD, OR A LEGAL WARD OF AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.**13 **(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE FAMILY LITERACY PILOT PROGRAM.**14 **(B) THERE IS A FAMILY LITERACY PILOT PROGRAM.**15 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO FOSTER FAMILY LITERACY AND**  
16 **STRENGTHEN PARENT–CHILD RELATIONSHIPS BY PROVIDING CHILDREN’S BOOKS**  
17 **IN STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS AND A**  
18 **MEANS FOR AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL TO READ ALOUD TO THE**  
19 **INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL’S CHILD.**20 **(D) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE LIBRARY**  
21 **AGENCY.**22 **(E) THE STATE LIBRARY AGENCY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE**  
23 **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND THE**  
24 **CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL, SHALL SELECT FOUR STATE**  
25 **CORRECTIONAL FACILITY LIBRARIES OR PRERELEASE CENTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN**  
26 **THE PROGRAM THAT SHALL:**27 **(1) REPRESENT EACH OF THE WESTERN, CENTRAL, AND EASTERN**  
28 **REGIONS OF THE STATE;**29 **(2) CONSIST OF AT LEAST ONE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SERVING**  
30 **FEMALE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS; AND**

1           **(3) CONSIST OF AT LEAST ONE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SERVING**  
2 **MALE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.**

3           **(F) THE STATE LIBRARY AGENCY SHALL SELECT THE CHILDREN'S BOOKS**  
4 **FOR USE IN THE PROGRAM INCLUDING CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN LANGUAGES OTHER**  
5 **THAN ENGLISH.**

6           **(G) THE STATE LIBRARY AGENCY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE**  
7 **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND THE**  
8 **CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL, SHALL:**

9           **(1) ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO SECURE WRITTEN PERMISSION TO**  
10 **PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM FROM THE CUSTODIAL PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF AN**  
11 **INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL'S CHILD;**

12           **(2) ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO ASSIST AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL**  
13 **IN SELECTING AN AGE-APPROPRIATE CHILDREN'S BOOK, PREPARING A RECORDING**  
14 **OF THE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL READING THE BOOK ALOUD, AND**  
15 **DISTRIBUTING A COPY OF THE BOOK AND THE RECORDING TO THE INCARCERATED**  
16 **INDIVIDUAL'S CHILD; AND**

17           **(3) ENSURE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM IS FREE OF CHARGE**  
18 **FOR THE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL, THE CHILD, AND THE CUSTODIAL PARENT OR**  
19 **GUARDIAN.**

20           **(H) THE STATE LIBRARY AGENCY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY**  
21 **TO CARRY OUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

22           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,  
23 2028, the State Library Agency shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with §  
24 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the results of the Family Literacy Pilot  
25 Program.

26           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and 3 months and, at the  
28 end of December 31, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General  
29 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.