

SENATE BILL 378

F5, E4, E5

5lr1564
CF HB 415

By: **Senator A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

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:

21 **Article – Education**

22 23–101.

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 23-103.

2 There is a State Library Agency and a State Library Board. The State Library
3 Agency is the central State library agency.

4 23-112.

5 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
6 INDICATED.

7 (2) "CHILD" MEANS A BIOLOGICAL OR ADOPTED CHILD, A
8 STEPCHILD, A GRANDCHILD, OR A LEGAL WARD OF AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.

9 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE FAMILY LITERACY PILOT PROGRAM.

10 (B) THERE IS A FAMILY LITERACY PILOT PROGRAM.

11 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO FOSTER FAMILY LITERACY AND
12 STRENGTHEN PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS BY PROVIDING CHILDREN'S BOOKS
13 IN STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS AND A
14 MEANS FOR AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL TO READ ALOUD TO THE
15 INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL'S CHILD.

16 (D) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE LIBRARY
17 AGENCY.

18 (E) THE STATE LIBRARY AGENCY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
19 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND THE
20 CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL, SHALL SELECT FOUR STATE
21 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY LIBRARIES OR PRERELEASE CENTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN
22 THE PROGRAM THAT SHALL:

23 (1) REPRESENT EACH OF THE WESTERN, CENTRAL, AND EASTERN
24 REGIONS OF THE STATE;

25 (2) CONSIST OF AT LEAST ONE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SERVING
26 FEMALE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS; AND

27 (3) CONSIST OF AT LEAST ONE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SERVING
28 MALE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
21 2028, the State Library Agency shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with §
22 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on the results of the Family Literacy Pilot
23 Program.

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