

SENATE BILL 378

F5

(6lr2347)

ENROLLED BILL

— Budget and Taxation/Appropriations —

Introduced by ~~Senator Guzzone~~ Senators Guzzone, Augustine, Bailey, Corderman, Hettleman, Jennings, King, Lewis Young, McCray, Rosapepe, Salling, and Zucker

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Education – Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries – Funding~~
3 Public Libraries – Young Readers Matching Grant Program, Funding, and
4 Services

5 FOR the purpose of renaming the Young Readers Matching Grant Program to be the Young
6 Readers Grant Program; altering the purpose, application requirements, and funding
7 of the Program; altering the calculation of certain funding for certain regional
8 resource centers and each county public library system for certain fiscal years;
9 altering the types of services of which each public library is required to offer at least
10 one service; and generally relating to the public libraries in the State.

11 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~
12 ~~Article – Education~~

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 ~~Section 23-202(b)~~
 2 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 3 ~~(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 5 Article – Education
 6 Section 23-111, 23-205(c), 23-410, and 23-503
 7 Annotated Code of Maryland
 8 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 10 Article – Education
 11 Section 23-202(b)
 12 Annotated Code of Maryland
 13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 23-111.

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

19 (2) “Affiliated service” means a book-gifting service performed by a
 20 nonprofit organization that is tax exempt under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or
 21 a unit of State, county, or municipal government that forms an affiliated partnership with
 22 an early reader organization.

23 (3) “Early reader organization” means a nonprofit organization:

24 (i) That is tax exempt under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;

25 and

26 (ii) Whose mission is to distribute to children free, high-quality books
 27 designed to aid the development of reading skills.

28 (4) “Program” means the Young Readers [Matching] Grant Program.

29 (b) There is a Young Readers [Matching] Grant Program in the State Library
 30 Agency.

31 (c) The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to public libraries and
 32 affiliated services to:

33 (1) Support the establishment and operation of affiliated services; and

1 (2) Contribute [an amount equal to the amount of funding provided for] TO
2 the operation of an affiliated service.

3 (d) The State Librarian shall administer the Program.

4 (e) (1) A public library or an affiliated service may submit an application for a
5 program grant on the form that the State Librarian requires.

6 (2) An application for a program grant shall include a plan to ensure that
7 the public library or the affiliated service is able to gift books to eligible children, including
8 **SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR SERVING** children in low-income zip codes within its area of
9 service.

10 (3) A program grant shall be disbursed to a public library or an affiliated
11 service that qualifies for the Program.

12 (f) The State Library Board shall:

13 (1) On or before December 1, 2024, and every other year thereafter, report to
14 the General Assembly on the effectiveness of the Program in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
15 State Government Article; and

16 (2) Collect statistics and other information necessary for this purpose.

17 (g) For each fiscal year, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an
18 appropriation of [~~\$350,000~~] **\$450,000** to the Program.

19 23-202.

20 (b) Each regional resource center shall provide, through mutual cooperation and
21 coordination, books, information, and other material and service resources that an
22 individual library cannot provide adequately by itself.

23 23-205.

24 (c) (1) Subject to subsection (g) of this section, each year each participating
25 regional resource center shall receive a minimum amount of funding for each resident of
26 the area served, to be used for operating and capital expenses.

27 (2) The allocation shall be calculated as follows:

28 (i) [For each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015.... \$6.75 per each
29 resident of the area served;

1 (ii) For fiscal year 2016..... \$6.95 per each
2 resident of the area served;

3 (iii) For fiscal year 2017..... \$7.15 per each
4 resident of the area served;

5 (iv) For fiscal year 2018..... \$7.55 per each
6 resident of the area served;

7 (v) For fiscal year 2019..... \$7.95 per each
8 resident of the area served;

9 (vi) For fiscal year 2020..... \$8.35 per each
10 resident of the area served;

11 (vii) For fiscal year 2021..... \$8.55 per each
12 resident of the area served;

13 (viii)] For fiscal year 2022..... \$8.75 per each
14 resident of the area served;

15 [(ix)] (II) For fiscal year 2023..... \$9.19 per
16 each resident of the area served;

17 [(x)] (III) For fiscal year 2024..... \$9.39 per
18 each resident of the area served;

19 [(xi)] (IV) For fiscal year 2025..... \$9.59 per
20 each resident of the area served;

21 [(xii)] (V) For fiscal year 2026..... \$9.79 per
22 each resident of the area served; [and]

23 [(xiii)] (VI) For fiscal year 2027 [and each fiscal year
24 thereafter]..... \$9.99 per each
25 resident of the area served;

26 (VII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028..... ~~\$10.29~~
27 \$10.19 PER EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

28 (VIII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2029..... ~~\$10.60~~
29 \$10.40 PER EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

30 (IX) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2030..... ~~\$10.92~~
31 \$10.60 PER EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

1 (X) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2031..... ~~\$11.24~~
2 \$10.81 PER EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED; AND

3 (XI) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2032 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
4 THEREAFTER..... ~~\$11.58~~ \$11.02 PER EACH RESIDENT OF THE
5 AREA SERVED.

6 23-410.

7 [Beginning January 1, 2024, each] EACH public library must offer at least one of the
8 following services alone or in partnership with units of government or nonprofit
9 organizations:

10 (1) [A program to increase scores on the kindergarten assessment
11 administered under § 7-210 of this article;

12 (2) A program designed to close learning gaps created by lack of access to
13 education, including learning gaps that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic;

14 (3) An initiative to expand digital equity and access to free computing and
15 broadband Internet;

16 (4) An educational program providing technology instruction and skills,
17 health literacy, instruction on operating a small business, and instruction on workforce
18 development] A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INCREASE EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY
19 AND LEARNING, SCHOOL READINESS, LITERACY PROFICIENCY, AND STUDENT
20 SUCCESS;

21 (2) AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM THAT ADVANCES INFORMATION
22 LITERACY, TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTION AND SKILLS, AND ECONOMIC, CAREER, AND
23 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;

24 (3) AN INITIATIVE THAT INCREASES DIGITAL EQUITY AND ACCESS TO
25 THE INTERNET;

26 [(5)] (4) Serving as a community resource and distribution site during
27 public emergencies; AND

28 [(6) A program to reduce barriers to STEM education, including by
29 providing activities, classes, programs, and events; and

30 (7) (5) Support for mental health and [reducing social and physical
31 isolation] PERSONAL WELL-BEING.

1 23–503.

2 (a) (1) The entire capital and operating cost of the minimum library program
3 for this State as a whole shall be shared as provided in this subsection.

4 (2) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, the State shall provide:

5 (i) Approximately 40 percent of the total cost of the minimum
6 program; and

7 (ii) Not less than 20 percent of the cost of the minimum program in
8 any county.

9 (3) The counties participating in the program together shall provide
10 through local taxes approximately 60 percent of the total statewide cost of the minimum
11 program.

12 (b) (1) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, each county public library
13 system that participates in the minimum library program shall be provided for each
14 resident of the county, to be used for operating and capital expenses:

15 (i) [For each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015 – \$14.00;

16 (ii) For fiscal year 2016 – \$14.27;

17 (iii) For fiscal year 2017 – \$14.54;

18 (iv) For fiscal year 2018 – \$15.00;

19 (v) For fiscal year 2019 – \$15.50;

20 (vi) For fiscal year 2020 – \$16.00;

21 (vii) For fiscal year 2021 – \$16.43;

22 (viii)] For fiscal year 2022 – \$17.10;

23 [(ix) (II) For fiscal year 2023 – \$17.50;

24 [(x) (III) For fiscal year 2024 – \$17.90;

25 [(xi) (IV) For fiscal year 2025 – \$18.30;

26 [(xii) (V) For fiscal year 2026 – \$18.70; [and]

1 [(xiii)] (VI) For fiscal year 2027 [and each fiscal year thereafter] –
2 \$19.10;

3 (VII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028 – ~~\$19.71~~ \$19.50;

4 (VIII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2029 – ~~\$20.35~~ \$19.92;

5 (IX) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2030 – ~~\$21.00~~ \$20.32;

6 (X) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2031 – ~~\$21.67~~ \$20.74; AND

7 (XI) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2032 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
8 THEREAFTER – ~~\$22.37~~ \$21.15.

9 (2) (i) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, the State shall share in
10 this amount.

11 (ii) Any county may provide an amount greater than its share under
12 the cooperative program, but the State may not share in the excess.

13 (c) Any employer Social Security contributions required by federal law for any
14 employee in a county public library system shall remain the obligation of the employer.

15 (d) (1) Receipt of State funding for a county library system that participates in
16 the minimum library program under this section is contingent on the board of library
17 trustees adopting a written policy for operation of the county library system that is
18 consistent with the State standards for libraries.

19 (2) (i) The Comptroller shall withhold all State funds from a county
20 library system that the State Library Board certifies has failed to meet the State standards
21 for libraries.

22 (ii) The Comptroller shall continue to withhold funds under
23 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph until the State Library Board certifies that the county
24 library system has adopted a written policy consistent with the State standards for
25 libraries.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2026.