

# SENATE BILL 378

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6lr2347  
CF 6lr3574

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By: Senator Guzzone

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries – Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the calculation of certain funding for certain regional resource  
4 centers and each county public library system for certain fiscal years; altering the  
5 types of services of which each public library is required to offer at least one service;  
6 and generally relating to the public libraries in the State.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Education

9 Section 23–202(b)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Education

14 Section 23–205(c), 23–410, and 23–503

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Education**

20 23–202.

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

24 23–205.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 [xiii)] (VI) For fiscal year 2027 [and each fiscal year  
30 thereafter]..... \$9.99 per each  
31 resident of the area served:

1 (VII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028..... \$10.29 PER  
2 EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

3 (VIII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2029..... \$10.60 PER  
4 EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

5 (IX) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2030..... \$10.92 PER  
6 EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED;

7 (X) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2031..... \$11.24 PER  
8 EACH RESIDENT OF THE AREA SERVED; AND

12 23-410.

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

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

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

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

22 (4) An educational program providing technology instruction and skills,  
23 health literacy, instruction on operating a small business, and instruction on workforce  
24 development] **A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INCREASE EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY**  
25 **AND LEARNING, SCHOOL READINESS, LITERACY PROFICIENCY, AND STUDENT**  
26 **SUCCESS;**

1                   **[(5)] (4)**     Serving as a community resource and distribution site during  
2 public emergencies; AND

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

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

7 23–503.

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

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

11                  (i)     Approximately 40 percent of the total cost of the minimum  
12 program; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [(ix)] (II) For fiscal year 2023 – \$17.50;
- [(x)] (III) For fiscal year 2024 – \$17.90;
- [(xi)] (IV) For fiscal year 2025 – \$18.30;
- [(xii)] (V) For fiscal year 2026 – \$18.70; [and]
- [(xiii)] (VI) For fiscal year 2027 [and each fiscal year thereafter] –

**(VII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028 – \$19.71;**

**(VIII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2029 – \$20.35;**

**(IX) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2030 – \$21.00;**

(x) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2031 – \$21.67; AND

(XI) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2032 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR  
22.37.

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

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

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

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

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