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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR STATEMENT

**Senate Bill 326 – State Libraries – Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and State Library Board - Alteration**

February 12, 2020

Mister Chairman and Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped offers services to Blind and Print Disabled residents of Maryland. Their services include:

- Books and magazines in Braille delivered either through the US mail or through digital download
- Books and magazines sent in a specialized format for use with the Digital Talking Book Machine mailed directly to the patron at home or accessed via direct download
- Books in Large Print delivered through the US Mail
- Accessible Technology Training by Appointment
- Accessible Textbook Conversion through the Maryland Accessible Textbook Program

Senate Bill 326 would change the name of the State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to the *State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled*. The name change more accurately reflects the community being served.

Additionally, the bill alters the makeup of the Maryland State Library Board to include as a member, a blind or print disabled patron of the Library for the Blind. Given the important services that the State Library provides to the blind and sight impaired community, it is imperative that a member of that community be able to offer their perspective to the Board.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 326.