



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 524

Building Lifelong Library Learners Act

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
and Budget and Taxation Committees

Date: February 12, 2020

From: Drew Jabin

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 524 as it boosts funding for county library capital projects, accelerates increases to the library funding formula, and encourages minors to continue to utilize their public libraries by eliminating certain fines.

Maryland's counties share funding responsibility with the State for our libraries and support additional resources for them. County governments direct well over \$300 million of their operating budget general funds each year to supporting libraries.

Counties are proud to support libraries, which have become an integral facet to a county's ability to build community. SB 524 offers welcome State support to help further their aims. Already, libraries provide a safe place for our children to spend time after school and they offer early literacy programs for young children. They also provide internet access to the public and support for job-seekers and small business owners.

SB 524 describes incremental increases to accelerate State funding for libraries and regional resource centers, appropriates funds to help libraries continue to offer community services, and provides incentives for minors to continue use of library resources. For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 524.