

SB0831 Support Regional Resource Centers SMRLA Tea

Uploaded by: Ashley Teagle

Position: FAV



Southern Maryland
Regional Library Association, Inc.
Advancing Library Excellence

February 21, 2023

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee members:

I am writing in **Support of SB0831 Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements.**

The Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA) is one of three regional resource centers in Maryland. With the support of the Maryland General Assembly and the Maryland State Library Agency, we have assured that rural Marylanders receive equity of service and access equivalent to that of our urban neighbors. However, as the three regional resource centers have evolved over the years to better serve their communities, the 1957 law governing the centers has not evolved with them. Although Maryland's regional resource centers are in compliance with community-based, principled governance structures, SB0831 updates and clarifies that law.

Over the last 18 months the three regional resource centers, the fourteen county libraries they serve, and the Maryland State Library Agency have been working together to strengthen the current code. SB0831 contains specific language that defines the governance of the centers while reflecting the specific needs of each entity. Specifically, this bill ensures that SMRLA's governing board is a separate entity from our public library partners. Our current structure requires that I recruit SMRLA's Board members from the Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's County public library boards.

As stated above, this structure may be attributed to out of date governance policies which are no longer in line with our vision of advancing library excellence. Just as SMRLA's CEO no longer serves as the administrative officer for the public libraries of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties, I believe it is time we evolve beyond requiring volunteers to serve on two boards simultaneously. By allowing SMRLA to recruit a Board that meets our organizational needs we will be better positioned to meet the needs of our public library partners.

Maryland public libraries are among the strongest, if not the strongest system of public libraries in the nation. This is due in large part to the continued support of the Maryland General Assembly and its support of regional libraries for which I am very grateful. I respectfully ask for your support of SB0831.

Sincerely,

Ashley Teagle
CEO
Southern Maryland Regional Library Association

Regional Library Governance 0831 support SenateTCF

Uploaded by: Dana Newman

Position: FAV



Dana Newman
Director

100 West Dover Street
Easton, MD 21601

Telephone
410-822-1626
Fax
410-820-8217

February 21, 2023

Dear Senator Hershey:

The Talbot County Free Library strongly supports SB 0831 Libraries-Regional Resource Centers-Governance which ensures the continuance of strong and adaptive regional libraries whose trustees' valued skill sets directly contribute to mission accomplishment and to the libraries' prominence in their region. As you are well aware, the Regional Libraries provide much support (staff development, delivery of materials across libraries, technology, grant funding and many other resources) for the individual library systems they represent. Without this support, these small, rural, individual systems would not be able to deliver the wealth of services and resources that they do to all of our patrons, residents, and visitors.

This bill helps to keep the structure of the regional libraries strong and the community-based membership that the bill proposes allows regional libraries to recruit board members who can advance the regional library agenda--community leaders, attorneys, financial experts, fund raisers, and advocates. This broadens and elevates the regional library as an entity mindful of larger community issues such as economic development, health, transportation, and public safety--versus looking internally to county library issues. It also clarifies what other sections of the law apply to regional libraries, including the Open Meetings Act, how library records are secured, the submission of annual audits to the State, and the regional library board appointment process.

TCFL urges your support of SB 0831. Thank you very much for your continued support of Maryland libraries and regional libraries.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dana Newman
Director

SB831 Regional Resource Centers Governance_letter

Uploaded by: Debby Bennett

Position: FAV



Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
SB831 – Libraries - Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements
February 22, 2023
Support

Dear Chair Feldman, and Vice Chair Kagen, and Distinguished Committee Members:

I am writing in Support of SB831 Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements.

In 1957, the Maryland Code, Section 23-202, Regional Resource Centers statute was passed into law. The law worked very well for decades, as the regional libraries were a very small part of library services for the counties they served. Funding was minimal and unstable until the late 1990's when per capita funding was established.

Today, the regional resource centers have evolved into a major influential force for the fourteen county library systems they support. However, the law governing regional resource centers has not evolved. We have a 1957 law governing 2023 organizations. The governing boards of the three regional resource centers have developed in different ways. They may be county library board trustees, county citizens, or county library directors. Terms range from no term limits, to one and three years. There is no unified guidance from the current statute, which is unclear on basic governance such as the roles and responsibilities of the boards, officer qualifications, term limits, meetings, attendance, or the role of library management staff.

SB831 contains specific language that defines the governance of the regional resource centers and has been vetted and approved by the regional resource center directors, their current boards, the directors and boards of the fourteen county libraries served, as well as the Maryland State Library Agency.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB831, which will allow Maryland's regional resource centers to continue to expand their role in supporting library equity and access in our rural communities. Specifically to Caroline County Public Library, the Eastern Shore Regional Library provides us, along with the other seven county library systems on the Eastern Shore services, professional development training, and expertise that we couldn't afford to provide our citizens on our own.

Sincerely,

Debby Bennett
Executive Director

info@carolib.org • www.carolib.org

Central Library
100 Market Street
Denton, Maryland 21629
p 410.479.1343 f 410.479.1443

Federalsburg Branch
123 Morris Avenue
Federalsburg, Maryland 21632
p 410.754.8397 f 410.754.3058

North County Branch
101 Cedar Lane • P.O. Box 336
Greensboro, Maryland 21639
p 410.482.2173 f 410.482.2634

SB0831 Librariies - Regional Resource Centers - Go

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Hulett

Position: FAV

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB0831 – Libraries - Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements
February 22, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, and Vice Chair Kagen and Committee members:

I am writing in **Support of SB0831 Libraries – Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements**

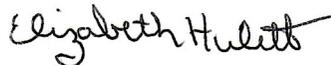
The three regional resource centers in Maryland are a foundational force to the operations of the fourteen county library systems they support in rural Maryland. With the support of the Maryland General Assembly and the Maryland State Library Agency, they have assured that rural Marylanders receive equity of service and access equivalent to that of their urban neighbors. However, as the three regional resource centers have evolved over the years to better serve their communities, the 1957 law governing the centers has not evolved with them. Although Maryland's regional resource centers are in compliance with community-based, principled governance structures, SB0831 updates and clarifies that law.

Over the last 18 month the three regional resource centers, the fourteen county libraries they serve, and the Maryland State Library Agency have been working together to strengthen the current code. SB0831 contains specific language that defines the governance of the centers while reflecting the specific needs of each entity. Specifically, this bill ensures that the Western Maryland Regional Library will continue to function the way that provides the most support to the citizens of Western Maryland, by allowing it to continue under the auspices of the Washington County Free Library Board of Trustees. Under this arrangement, the administrative costs are significantly lower for the Western Maryland Regional Library, which in turn allows more state funding to support the materials and services important to Western Maryland citizens. This is particularly important in the Western region as it is the smallest of the three regionals and since fiscal year 2017 both Allegany and Garrett counties have suffered population loss.

The Boards of Trustees in Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties, as well as all three library directors, agree that this is the best form of governance for the Western Maryland Regional Library as it preserves its financial viability and operational strength.

Maryland public libraries are among the strongest, if not the strongest system of public libraries in the nation. This is due in large part to the continued support of the Maryland General Assembly and its support of regional libraries for which I am very grateful. I respectfully ask for your support of SB0831.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Hulett

Director

Western Maryland Regional Library

SB 831 Reg Res Ctrs 2-22-23.pdf

Uploaded by: Gordon Krabbe

Position: FAV



ENOCH PRATT
free LIBRARY

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB 831 - Libraries - Regional Resource Centers
February 22, 2023
Support

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB 831 Libraries - Regional Resource Centers which bring Maryland's regional libraries into compliance with community-based, principled governance structures that employ best practices for a non-profit entity funded by taxpayers.

This legislation ensures the continuance of strong and adaptive regional libraries whose trustees' valued skill sets directly contribute to mission accomplishment and to the libraries' prominence in their region. It allows regional libraries to recruit board members who can advance the regional library agenda. It broadens and elevates the regional library as an entity mindful of larger community issues such as economic development, health, transportation, and public safety--versus looking internally to county library issues. Additionally, this bill will ensure even greater input from both participating libraries and the community as to what services are needed from the regional libraries.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library also serves as the State Library Resource Center, the hub of the state library network providing specialized service to libraries and customers around the State. This legislation would support our partners, the Regional Resource Centers who collaborate with us daily on service delivery.

We respectfully ask for your support of SB 831 and thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

Heidi Daniel
Chief Executive Officer

SB 831 - Libraries - Regional Resource Centers - G

Uploaded by: Irene Padilla

Position: FAV

This proposed bill updates the following: roles and responsibilities of the governing boards, officer qualifications, term limits, meeting guidelines, attendance guidelines, and the role of library management staff. As a result of this bill, there will be even greater input from both participating libraries and the community as to what services are needed from the regional libraries.

Dedicated, per capita funding for regional libraries will continue. Library certifications and participation in the state pension system will be maintained. No change is anticipated in the duties of the regional libraries. Local control of library funding, policies, and operations also continues.

MSLA fully supports the passage of this bill.

Support Letter SB 831 Libraries-Regional Resource

Uploaded by: Janet Salazar

Position: FAV



Centreville 121 South Commerce St., Centreville, MD, 21617 | 410-758-0980

Kent Island 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, MD, 21666 | 410-643-8161

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
SB831 – Libraries - Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements
February 22, 2023
Support

Dear Chair Feldman, and Vice Chair Kagen, and Distinguished Committee Members:

I am writing in Support of SB831 Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements.

In 1957, the Maryland Code, Section 23-202, Regional Resource Centers statute was passed into law. The law worked very well for decades, as the regional libraries were a very small part of library services for the counties they served. Funding was minimal and unstable until the late 1990's when per capita funding was established.

Today, the regional resource centers have evolved into a major influential force for the fourteen county library systems they support. However, the law governing regional resource centers has not evolved. We have a 1957 law governing 2023 organizations. The governing boards of the three regional resource centers have developed in different ways. They may be county library board trustees, county citizens, or county library directors. Terms range from no term limits, to one and three years. There is no unified guidance from the current statute, which is unclear on basic governance such as the roles and responsibilities of the boards, officer qualifications, term limits, meetings, attendance, or the role of library management staff.

SB831 contains specific language that defines the governance of the regional resource centers and has been vetted and approved by the regional resource center directors, their current boards, the directors and boards of the fourteen county libraries served, as well as the Maryland State Library Agency. This bill ensures even greater input from both participating libraries and the community as to what services are needed from the regional libraries.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB831, which will allow Maryland's regional resource centers to continue to expand their role in supporting library equity and access in our rural communities. In Queen Anne's County, the Eastern Shore Regional Library provides our library system, along with the other seven county library systems on the Eastern Shore, services, professional development training, and technology expertise that we couldn't afford to provide our citizens on our own.

Thank you for your consideration,

Janet Salazar
Director
Queen Anne's County Library



Centreville 121 South Commerce St., Centreville, MD, 21617 | 410-758-0980

Kent Island 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, MD, 21666 | 410-643-8161

SB0831_February_2023_Worcester.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Ranck

Position: FAV



Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
SB831 – Libraries - Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements
February 22, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, and Vice Chair Kagen, and Committee members:

I am writing in **Support of SB831 Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements.**

The current code that governs the Regional Resource Centers was passed into law in 1957. Although the law worked well for decades, the regional resource centers have evolved into a major influential force for the fourteen county library systems they support.

The governing boards of the three regional resource centers have developed in different ways. They may be county library board trustees, county citizens, or county library directors. Terms range from no term limits, to one and three years. There is no unified guidance from the current statute, which is unclear on basic governance such as the roles and responsibilities of the boards, officer qualifications, term limits, meetings, attendance, role of library management staff, etc. SB831 contains specific language that defines the governance of the regional resource centers and has been vetted and approved by the regional resource center directors, their current boards, the directors and boards of the fourteen county libraries served, as well as the Maryland State Library Agency.

Thank you for your continued support of public libraries and, by extension, our ability to provide equal service to all Maryland. I respectfully request your support of SB831. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

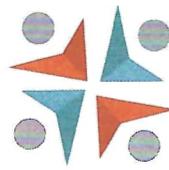
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Ranck".

Jennifer Ranck
Director

SB831_Favorable_WCFL.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenny Bakos

Position: FAV



WASHINGTON COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

Where People & Possibilities Meet

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
SB831 – Libraries - Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements
February 22, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagen and Committee members,

I am writing in **Support of SB831 Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements.**

In 1957, the Maryland Code, § 23-202, Regional Resource Centers (RRC) statute was passed into law. The law has continued to work well for the Western Maryland Regional Library, but the RRC's on the Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland have other needs that have evolved in their communities.

Over the last eighteen months Maryland's three Regional Libraries, the fourteen county libraries they serve, and the Maryland State Library Agency have been working to strengthen the code that covers Regional Library Governance.

This bill, if codified into law, ensures that the Western Maryland Regional Library will continue to function the way that provides the most support to the citizens of Western Maryland – by allowing it to continue to be under the auspices of the Washington County Free Library Board of Trustees. Under this arrangement, the administrative costs are lower for the Western Maryland Regional Library, which in turn allows more state funding to support materials and programs that are important to members of our communities. This is especially important for Garrett and Allegany Counties, as they have been losing population, and therefore some of their state funding, since 2017.

All three Boards of Trustees in Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties, and Library Directors for those three systems are in agreement that this is the best form of governance for the Western Maryland Regional Library.

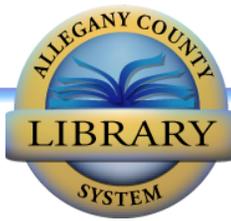
Thank you for your support for SB831, and your continued support of Maryland's libraries.

Jenny L. Bakos
Executive Director
Washington County Free Library

SB831- Testimony -favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: John Taube

Position: FAV



Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB 831 - Libraries – Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements
February 22, 2023
Support

Dear Chairperson Feldman and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Allegany County Library System, I am writing to urge you to support SB831, Libraries – Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements.

SB831 modernizes and brings Maryland’s regional libraries into compliance with community-based, principled governance structures that employ best practices for a non-profit entity funded by the taxpayers of Maryland. The three regional resource centers in Maryland are a foundational force to the operations of the fourteen county library systems they support in rural Maryland. With the support of the Maryland General Assembly and the Maryland State Library Agency, they have assured that rural Marylanders receive equity of service and access equivalent to that of their urban Neighbors. The Regional Libraries, the county libraries they serve, and the Maryland State Library Agency saw the need to update the 1957 statute and worked to strengthen the code that covers Regional Library Governance.

While this bill has no fiscal impact, the proposed bill updates: roles and responsibilities of the governing boards, officer qualifications, term limits, meeting guidelines, attendance guidelines, and the role of library management staff. As a result of these bills, there will be even greater input from both participating libraries and the community as to what services are needed from the regional libraries. Dedicated, per capita funding for regional libraries will continue as well as local control of library funding, policies, and operations.

Thank you for your support of SB831.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Taube".

John Taube
Executive Director

SB831 Written Testimony - JVenditta.pdf

Uploaded by: John Venditta

Position: FAV

Ways and Means Committee
SB0831 – Libraries - Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements
February 22, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, and Vice Chair Kagen and Committee members:

I am writing in **Support of SB0831 Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements.**

In 1957, the Maryland Code, Section 23-202, Regional Resource Centers statute was passed into law. The law worked very well for decades, as the regional libraries were a very small part of library services for the counties they served. Funding was minimal and unstable until the late 1990's when per capita funding was established.

Today, the regional resource centers have evolved into a major influential force for the fourteen county library systems they support. However, the law governing regional resource centers has not evolved--we have a 1957 law governing 2023 organizations. The governing boards of the three regional resource centers have developed in different ways. They may be county library board trustees, county citizens, or county library directors. Terms range from no term limits, to one and three years. There is no unified guidance from the current statute, which is unclear on basic governance such as the roles and responsibilities of the boards, officer qualifications, term limits, meetings, attendance, role of library management staff, etc.

SB0831 contains specific language that defines the governance of the regional resource centers and has been vetted and approved by the regional resource center directors, their current boards, the directors and boards of the fourteen county libraries served, as well as the Maryland State Library Agency.

I am deeply grateful to the Maryland Legislature as a whole for their commitment to public libraries and the services we provide to our citizens. I respectfully ask for your support of HB1115 which will allow Maryland's regional resource centers to continue to expand our role in supporting library equity and access in our rural communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John C Venditta, CEO
Eastern Shore Regional Library, Inc.

Prince George's - Support - SB831 - Libraries - R

Uploaded by: Megan Sutherland

Position: FAV



Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB 831 Libraries - Regional Resource Centers - Governance Requirements
February 21, 2023
Support

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) supports **SB 831 Libraries - Regional Resource Centers - Governance Requirements** ensuring the continuance of strong and adaptive regional libraries in Maryland. The regional resource centers directly contribute to the mission and accomplishments of the public libraries in their region.

PGCMLS greatly benefits from the leadership, expertise, and guidance of our Board of Library Trustees, who reflect the community served by the Library. Our current Board members bring communications, education, legal, financial, government relations, and economic development expertise to our organization.

SB 831 allows regional libraries to recruit board members who can advance the regional library agenda (e.g., community leaders, attorneys, financial experts, fundraisers, and advocates). This broadens and elevates the regional library as an entity mindful of larger community issues (e.g., economic development, health, transportation, and public safety) versus looking internally at county library issues. The proposed bill updates the following: roles and responsibilities of the governing boards, officer qualifications, term limits, meeting guidelines, attendance guidelines, and the role of library management staff. As a result of this bill, there will be even greater input from both participating libraries and the community as to what services are needed from the regional libraries.

Maryland's public libraries and regional resource centers continue to fill critical community needs, including services for job seekers, small business owners, students, and residents of all ages. We respectfully ask that you support **SB 831 Libraries - Regional Resource Centers - Governance Requirements** to ensure that local control of library funding, policies, and operations continues through Maryland's regional resource centers.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Gannon
Acting Co-CEO
COO for Support Services

Nicholas A. Brown
Acting Co-CEO
COO for Communication and Outreach

SB831 Testimony - Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Vose

Position: FAV



Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 15, 2023

Dear Senator Feldman, Senator Kagan, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to add my voice to those asking for your support in passing **SB831 - Libraries - Regional Resource Centers - Governance Requirements**, which is critical to maintaining the effective and collegial relationship enjoyed by the libraries in Western Maryland.

The Ruth Enlow Library relies heavily on the support of the Western Maryland Regional Library to provide materials and services for its community. This bill will enable the existing governance relationship between the libraries of Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties and the Western Maryland Regional Library to continue as it has while updating the legislation establishing regional libraries, originally created in 1957, to reflect the current practices in those systems.

We feel that this is a relationship that works and delivers great benefit to all parties involved, and maintaining it as it stands, which this legislation will do, is a very high priority for the Library.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support of Maryland's libraries and the people they serve!

Sincerely,

Thomas Vose
Director, Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County