



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

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