



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, appearing to read "John Taube", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

John Taube
Executive Director