



**BILL:** HB 1246 **DATE:** April 6, 2023

**SUBJECT:** County Public Libraries - **COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means  
Overdue Library Materials -  
Minors

**SPEAKER:** Irene Padilla **POSITION:** Support  
State Librarian

### **EXPLANATION**

The Building Lifelong Library Learners Act legislation was passed during the 2021 session of the General Assembly. This bill updates § 23-409. *Restrictions on fines on minor's overdue library materials Adoption of regulations*. The intent of the legislation is to prevent public libraries from charging overdue fines to a minor and regulate the charging of certain fees. This revision more fully describes the purpose and intent of the legislation.

This bill clarifies otherwise confusing language in the statute and provides definitions for a minor (defined as an individual under the age of 18), library materials, replacement fee, overdue fine and special collections. This commonality of definitions ensures that all public libraries understand and follow the same requirements

This statute is relied upon by Library Directors and Library Boards for guidance to ensure uniformity of language to ensure that that all Maryland public libraries understand and follow the same requirements. It also provides the necessary documentation if library boards or local governments try to reinstate library fines for minors at a future date.