

cents per year thereafter through FY 2030. EPFL now has a union and costs are expected to rise. Costs for contracted services and equipment are also anticipated to increase. The bill will provide for annual inflationary increases in the rate between FY 2026 and FY 2030.

- (x) for fiscal year 2026.....\$2.07 per state resident;
- (xi) for fiscal year 2027.....\$2.15 per state resident;
- (xii) for fiscal year 2028.....\$2.24 per state resident;
- (xiii) for fiscal year 2029.....\$2.33 per state resident;
- (xiv) for fiscal year 2030.....\$2.42 per state resident;
- (xv) for fiscal year 2031 and each fiscal year thereafter.....\$2.52 per state resident.

This bill will also alter the mandated amount for the Maryland Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) for fiscal years 2026 through FY 2030 (23-205(e)).

This funding for the SLRC and LBPD will allow current services to be maintained and improved. This increase in funding will allow the SLRC to keep up with increases in ongoing costs and continue to develop many innovative and heavily used statewide programs.

Resources, services and programs currently supported by SLRC Per Capita funding include:

- Sailor Network & Resources (21 Maryland Public Library Systems depend on this resource for access to the Internet for their staff and customers)
- Interlibrary loan of needed materials not owned by local library systems.
- Staff Development and Learning Opportunities for Maryland librarians, including workshops needed for state of Maryland Public Librarian certification.
- Online resource database subscriptions needed by Marylanders, especially students K-12, to support homework, research and a variety of information needs.

The Maryland State Library Agency respectfully asks that you consider this information as you deliberate HB 489.