



BILL: SB 378 DATE: February 9, 2026

POSITION: Support

Dear Chair Senator Guzzone, Vice Chair Senator Rosapepe, and members of the Committee

I am writing on behalf of the Wicomico Public Library Board of Trustees in support of Senate Bill 378, which extends the state per capita funding cycle for Maryland's county public library systems and regional resource centers.

At Wicomico Public Library, state per capita funding is essential to maintaining quality library services for our community. Like many rural and small counties across Maryland, Wicomico relies on state aid to supplement local funding and ensure residents have equitable access to books, technology, programs, and safe, welcoming library spaces. State investment helps level the playing field so that library service quality is not determined solely by a county's tax base.

The current state funding cycle expires at the end of FY 2027, after which libraries would receive flat funding. SB 378 extends modest, predictable increases through FY 2032, allowing libraries to keep pace with rising operating costs and growing public demand.

Demand for library services continues to grow, especially in rural communities. Libraries provide free internet access, digital materials, early literacy support, and expanded outreach, while increasingly serving as access points for social services and community assistance. Regional resource centers play a critical role by supporting small and rural libraries with shared services such as materials delivery, technology, and training that individual systems could not sustain on their own.

State per capita funding ensures that Marylanders in counties like Wicomico receive reliable, high-quality library services comparable to those available elsewhere in the state. SB 378 provides stability and equity at a time when continued public investment in libraries is more important than ever.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 378.

Sincerely,

Seth Hershberger
Director, Wicomico Public Library