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Patrick Moran – President

**HB 660 – Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding
Budget and Taxation Committee
March 24, 2026**

FAVORABLE

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 supports House Bill 660. House Bill 660 alters the calculation of minimum funding for operating and capital expenses of the State Library Resource Center beginning in FY28. The Enoch Pratt Central Library is the designated State Library Resource Center (SLRC) under state law.¹ The SLRC's mission is to "provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services that are necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in the state."²

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 represents approximately 55,000 public service workers across varying levels of government including city, county, state, and higher education. AFSCME members are on the frontlines every day delivering critical public services our communities depend on. AFSCME is proud to represent library workers across Maryland through AFSCME Local 6359, which represents public library workers in Anne Arundel County, Frederick County, Howard County, and the Enoch Pratt library system.

The SLRC occupies a critical role in Maryland's public library system. The SLRC is responsible for maintaining a collection of various academic resources for other libraries and their customers, providing trainings to library workers throughout Maryland, and offering other services such as broadband internet access to other public institutions, research database subscriptions to all Maryland public libraries, and presenting other public programming. In short, the SLRC plays an essential role in Maryland's public library system and is dependent upon public funding to provide these key community resources.

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 supports enhanced public investment in our public services, institutions, and employees to ensure the delivery of quality public services to all Marylanders. House Bill 660 achieves this objective.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report of HB 660.

¹ MD Code, Education, § 23-201(a).

² MD Code, Education, § 23-201(b).