WORCESTER COUNTY
LIBRARY

BILL: SB 378 Education – Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries Funding

DATE: February 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries Funding

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation

SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Ranck, Director
Worcester County Library

POSITION: Support

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

I write in strong support of SB 378 which extends the per capita increases for the county libraries and regional resource centers through FY32.

This continued funding will support small and rural libraries through State Aid and the Regional Resource Centers. Oftentimes, these libraries are the first to experience economic downturns while helping the communities most in need of library service. As living expenses continue to rise, libraries provide free access to books and materials, programs for all ages, the internet, and other technology, including laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots. We help people find employment and provide space for Marylanders to easily access services such as tax assistance, veteran benefits, and health insurance information.

Worcester County Library is fortunate to be a member of the Eastern Shore Regional Library (ESRL). ESRL provides the eight county library systems on Maryland's Eastern Shore with daily delivery of library materials, IT support, essential training, and high-quality resource sharing. We depend heavily on the services they provide.

Libraries are foundational to education, economic opportunity, and lifelong learning.

I respectfully request that you support the passage of this budget item.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ranck

Jennifer Ranck
Director, Worcester County Library

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