



BILL: SB378

DATE: February 9, 2026

**SUBJECT: Education – Regional
Resources and County
Libraries – Funding**

**COMMITTEE: Senate Budget
and Taxation Committee**

**SUBMITTED BY: James Kelly,
Director, Frederick County
Public Libraries**

POSITION: Support

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

Frederick County Public Libraries (FCPL) supports **SB378** which provides critical funding to libraries across Maryland, including our own.

Maryland public libraries rely on the state for annual operating revenue to support collections, services, and programs. County library systems, on average, receive 18% of their operating funds from the state. For Regional library systems, that figure is closer to 22%.

The current funding cycle is set to expire at the end of FY27. Extending the state share cycle ensures that libraries can continue to meet increased operating costs and public service demands.

Last year, Frederick County Public Libraries saw 3 million visitors who borrowed over 5.1 million items, these figures were the highest in FCPL's history. We are on pace to surpass those totals in FY26. Keeping up with community demand for service would not be possible without the support we receive from the state.



FREDERICK
COUNTY
**PUBLIC
LIBRARIES**

For individuals and families working to stay within their budgets, free programs, family events, and learning opportunities at the library offer real relief. Every dollar saved by borrowing books and other materials for free from the library becomes a dollar freed to put groceries on the table.

Frederick County Public Libraries supports the passage of this budget item.

Sincerely,

James Kelly
Director
Frederick County Public Libraries

Director
James Kelly

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