



Date: February 9, 2026

Bill: SB 378  
Committee: Senate Budget & Taxation Subcommittee  
Subject: Education – Regional Resources and County Libraries – Funding  
Position: Support

Submitted by: Lori Milach, Eastern Shore Regional Library CEO

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

I am writing in support of SB0378 – Regional Resource Center and County Libraries – Funding, which is intended to extend per capita increases for the county libraries and regional resource centers through FY32. These funding increases will help sustain the important work that libraries perform in your local communities.

The Eastern Shore Regional Library (ESRL) is a critical component of Maryland’s public library infrastructure, providing essential shared services to the eight county libraries on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. These services include materials delivery, technology infrastructure, shared databases, staff training, and cooperative resource sharing. As a Regional Resource Center, ESRL primarily relies on state funding, making continued state support indispensable.

On the Eastern Shore, libraries frequently serve as the primary access point for internet connectivity, workforce development resources, educational programming, and community support services. Over the past decade, public library programs and attendance have increased significantly, and demand for free public Wi-Fi and online resources have grown exponentially.

Sustained and predictable state funding is essential to ensure that Regional Resource Centers can continue to support local libraries and maintain equitable access to services for all Maryland residents, regardless of geography.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of Maryland’s public libraries.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Milach, DPA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Eastern Shore Regional Library