



Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding
Budget and Taxation
February 18, 2026
SUPPORT

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) **strongly supports SB 410 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding**, which would ensure modest, periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula starting in fiscal year 2028.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library's Central Library was designated the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) in 1971 to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland. The State Library Resource Center's services are critical to Maryland libraries and residents statewide.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System and Prince Georgians benefit immensely from the State Library Resource Center services. Last year, Prince Georgians received 25,342 items via the statewide interlibrary loan program administered by SLRC. Statewide, nearly 300,000 materials were shared via interlibrary loan. Our customers, including all Prince George's County Public School students, have access to educational databases such as Gale, HeritageQuest, and Mango Languages, provided at no cost to PGCMLS. K-12 students statewide accessed these databases 1.5 million times last year. Libraries, schools, 25 municipalities, government agencies, and EMS throughout the state benefit from the high-speed internet connection service provided at no cost to recipients through the State Library Resource Center.

However, the services and resources residents statewide rely on are at risk. SLRC has cut its print budget and restricted key services due to funding shortages. The Enoch Pratt Free Library has backfilled \$1.79 million from its own general fund to keep statewide services intact, and that cannot continue. We ask that you **favorably recommend SB 410** for passage to ensure adequate funding for these statewide library services and resources.

Sincerely,

Mark Winston, Ph. D.
CEO