

Chapter 650

(Senate Bill 300)

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore City Young Readers Program – ~~Expansion and~~ and Young Readers Matching Grant Program – Alterations

FOR the purpose of ~~altering~~ transferring the Baltimore City Young Readers Program ~~to be the Statewide Young Readers Program; establishing the Program within~~ and the Young Readers Matching Grant Program to the Maryland State Library Agency; ~~altering the purpose of the Program; and~~ requiring the State Librarian to administer the ~~Program; programs; altering the purpose of the programs;~~ authorizing public libraries to apply for ~~program grants~~ grants from the Young Readers Matching Grant Program; ~~requiring program grant applicants to prioritize the distribution of books to children in low income zip codes within the applicants' area of service;~~ and generally relating to the Baltimore City Young Readers Program and the Young Readers Matching Grant Program.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Human Services
Section 8-1401 through 8-1403
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)~~

BY repealing
Article – Human Services
Section 8-1401
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY transferring
Article – Human Services
Section 8-1402 and 8-1403
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

to be
Article – Education
Section 23-110 and 23-111, respectively,
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 23-110 and 23-111
Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume)
(As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 8-1401 of Article – Human Services of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 8-1402 and 8-1403 of Article – Human Services of the Annotated Code of Maryland be transferred to be Section(s) 23-110 and 23-111, respectively, of Article – Education of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,~~ That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – ~~Human Services~~ Education

~~§ 1401.~~

~~In this subtitle, “early reader organization” means a nonprofit organization:~~

- ~~(1) that is tax exempt under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and~~
- ~~(2) whose mission is to [mail] DISTRIBUTE to children free, high quality books designed to aid the development of reading skills.~~

~~§ 1402.~~ 23-110.

(a) (1) In this section, “Program” means the [Baltimore City] STATEWIDE Young Readers Program THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “EARLY READER ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION:

(I) THAT IS TAX EXEMPT UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE; AND

(II) WHOSE MISSION IS TO DISTRIBUTE TO CHILDREN FREE, HIGH-QUALITY BOOKS DESIGNED TO AID THE DEVELOPMENT OF READING SKILLS.

(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE BALTIMORE CITY YOUNG READERS PROGRAM.

(b) There is a [Baltimore City] ~~STATEWIDE~~ Young Readers Program in the [Division] ~~MARYLAND~~ STATE LIBRARY AGENCY.

(c) The purpose of the Program is to work with an early reader organization to [mail] **DISTRIBUTE** free, high-quality books to children in ~~[Baltimore City] MARYLAND.~~

(d) The [Deputy Director] **STATE LIBRARIAN** shall:

(1) ~~administer~~ **ADMINISTER** the Program; and

(2) ~~carry~~ **CARRY** out the Program in partnership with an early reader organization partner.

(e) For each fiscal year, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$200,000 to the Program.

~~§ 1403. 23-111.~~

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Affiliated service” means a book-gifting service performed by a nonprofit organization that is tax exempt under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a unit of State, county, or municipal government that forms an affiliated partnership with an early reader organization.

(3) **“EARLY READER ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION:**

(I) THAT IS TAX EXEMPT UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE; AND

(II) WHOSE MISSION IS TO DISTRIBUTE TO CHILDREN FREE, HIGH-QUALITY BOOKS DESIGNED TO AID THE DEVELOPMENT OF READING SKILLS.

(4) “Program” means the Young Readers Matching Grant Program.

(b) There is a Young Readers Matching Grant Program in the [Division] ~~MARYLAND~~ **STATE LIBRARY AGENCY.**

(c) The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to **PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND** affiliated services to:

(1) ~~support~~ **SUPPORT** the establishment and operation of affiliated services; and

(2) ~~contribute~~ **CONTRIBUTE** an amount equal to the amount of funding provided for the operation of an affiliated service.

(d) The [Deputy Director] **STATE LIBRARIAN** shall administer the Program.

(e) (1) [An] **A PUBLIC LIBRARY OR AN** affiliated service may submit an application for a program grant on the form that the [Deputy Director] **STATE LIBRARIAN** requires.

(2) An application for a program grant shall include a plan to ensure that the **PUBLIC LIBRARY OR THE** affiliated service is able to gift books to eligible children, ~~[including] **PRIORITIZING**~~ children in low-income zip codes within its area of service.

(3) A program grant shall be disbursed to **A PUBLIC LIBRARY OR** an affiliated service that qualifies for the Program.

(F) THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD SHALL:

(1) ~~ON~~ ON OR BEFORE **DECEMBER 1, 2024**, AND EVERY OTHER YEAR THEREAFTER, REPORT TO THE **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE; AND**

(2) ~~COLLECT~~ COLLECT **STATISTICS AND OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

[f] (G) For each fiscal year, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of [~~\$250,000~~ ~~\$500,000~~ \$350,000] to the Program.

SECTION ~~2~~ 4 AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2023.