

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 466

(Senator King, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

Ways and Means

Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding

This bill increases the per capita funding amounts that must be provided to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) beginning in fiscal 2022. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by about \$303,100 in FY 2022 and by \$917,800 in FY 2025; future year increases reflect higher per capita funding amounts and population increases. Revenues are not affected. **This bill increases a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2022.**

(in dollars)	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	-	303,100	608,000	914,900	917,800
Net Effect	\$0	(\$303,100)	(\$608,000)	(\$914,900)	(\$917,800)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Although local library systems benefit from SLRC funding, local finances are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill increases per capita State aid for SLRC by \$0.04 annually from fiscal 2022 through 2024, when it reaches \$1.97 and remains at that amount in subsequent years. **Exhibit 1** compares per capita State aid under current law and under the bill.

Exhibit 1
Per Capita State Library Resource Center Aid Increases under the Bill
Fiscal 2021-2025

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Diff.</u>	<u>% Diff.</u>
2021	\$1.85	\$1.85	\$0.00	
2022	1.85	1.89	0.04	2.2%
2023	1.85	1.93	0.08	4.3%
2024	1.85	1.97	0.12	6.5%
2025	1.85	1.97	0.12	.6.5%

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Current Law/Background:

State Library Network

Since 1888, the State has provided funds to support public libraries throughout the State under what is now known as the State library network. The network consists of the Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library System in Baltimore City, three regional resource centers, and metropolitan cooperative service programs. All these systems receive State funding for operating expenses.

The Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library operates as the designated State Library Resource Center. Funding levels for SLRC are set at \$1.81 per resident in fiscal 2020 and will increase to \$1.85 per resident in fiscal 2021. In subsequent years, the funding level is set to remain at \$1.85 per resident.

Under the Governor's proposed fiscal 2021 State budget, funding for SLRC totals \$11.2 million.

Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) provides comprehensive library services to eligible blind and physically handicapped residents of Maryland, which includes individuals who are legally blind, visually or physically limited, or reading disabled. The library is part of the national network of the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped through the Library of Congress. The National Library Services selects and produces recordings of full-length books and

magazines for a network of libraries providing alternative format materials. The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped supplements the National Library Service collection with large print books, descriptive videos, children’s braille books, and tactile materials such as maps, atlases, and art books. Books are lent on a wide range of subjects in braille, audio, and large type. The service is free, statewide, and can be provided to individuals via the U.S. mail. Approximately 10,000 Maryland residents receive the services provided by the library annually.

LBPH must receive an amount equivalent to at least 25% of the general fund appropriation received by SLRC under the required per capita funding amounts.

Under the Governor’s proposed fiscal 2021 State budget, funding for LBPH totals \$3.0 million.

State Expenditures: As shown in Exhibit 1, State formula aid increases by \$303,058 in fiscal 2022 and, based upon current projections for population growth, by \$917,841 by fiscal 2025. As noted above, the LBPH receives an amount equivalent to at least 25% of the amount received by SLRC. As a result, expenditures for LBPH increase by \$60,612 in fiscal 2022 and by \$183,568 in fiscal 2025. The increase in funding for both SLRC and LBPH is shown in **Exhibit 2**.

Exhibit 2
Increase in Funding for SLRC and LBPH under the Bill
Fiscal 2022-2025

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
SLRC	\$242,447	486,410	731,924	734,273
LBPH	60,612	121,602	182,981	183,568
Total	\$303,058	608,012	914,905	917,841

LBPH: The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
SLRC: State Library Resource Center

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Library Agency; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

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