

Chapter 649

(House Bill 243)

AN ACT concerning

**Baltimore City Young Readers Program – ~~Expansion and~~ and Young Readers
Matching Grant Program – Alterations
 (Young Readers Program ~~Expansion~~ Act of 2023)**

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repealed.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 BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF MARYLAND, 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.