



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 685

DATE: February 24, 2022

SPONSOR: Delegate C. Branch, *et al.*

ASSIGNED TO: Ways and Means

CONTACT PERSON: Kathleen Boucher ([kathleen.boucher@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:kathleen.boucher@montgomerycountymd.gov))

POSITION: Support

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### Education – Regional Resource Centers and Libraries – Funding

This bill increases per capita State funding for public libraries and regional resource centers in each of the next five fiscal years. For county libraries, the per capita funding increases from \$17.10 per resident in fiscal 2022 to \$20.00 per resident in fiscal 2027 and each year thereafter. In fiscal 2022, the Montgomery County public library system received \$3.5 million in State aid. Each year the cost of providing materials and services rises for public libraries across the State. The increased amount of per capita State funding required under this bill would allow the Montgomery County Public Libraries system as well as other library systems across the State to address increased costs and continue to purchase and provide those materials and services to their communities.

The County strongly supports the bill and respectfully requests that the Ways and Means Committee give the bill a favorable report.