

SB0378/943525/1

BY: Appropriations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 378
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “**Public Libraries – Young Readers Matching Grant Program, Funding, and Services**”; in line 3, after the first “of” insert “renaming the Young Readers Matching Grant Program to be the Young Readers Grant Program; altering the purpose, application requirements, and funding of the Program;”; strike in their entirety lines 7 through 11, inclusive; in line 14, after “Section” insert “23–111.”; and after line 16, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Education
Section 23–202(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 19, insert:

“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:

SB0378/943525/01 Appropriations Committee
Amendments to SB 378
Page 2 of 3

(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 State Library Agency.

(c) The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to public libraries and affiliated services to:

(1) Support the establishment and operation of affiliated services; and

(2) Contribute [an amount equal to the amount of funding provided for] TO the operation of an affiliated service.

(d) The State Librarian shall administer the Program.

(e) (1) A public library or an affiliated service may submit an application for a program grant on the form that the 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 **SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR SERVING** 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.

SB0378/943525/01 Appropriations Committee
Amendments to SB 378
Page 3 of 3

(f) The State Library Board shall:

(1) 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 statistics and other information necessary for this purpose.

(g) For each fiscal year, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of [~~\$350,000~~] **\$450,000** to the Program.”.