



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

House Bill 597

Senate Bill 515

Delegate D. Jones

Senator King

Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding

POSITION

SUPPORT FAVORABLE

The Prince George's County Council supports House Bill 597/Senate Bill 515 – Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center – Funding, which seeks to enhance and secure funding for the State Library Resource Center. This legislation is critical to ensuring the continued accessibility, efficiency, and development of our public library system, a fundamental pillar of education, research, and community engagement.

House Bill 597/Senate Bill 515 proposes an incremental increase in the per capita funding for the State Library Resource Center, recognizing the growing demand for specialized library services and materials across Maryland. By providing a structured and predictable funding framework, this legislation will enable libraries to expand access to invaluable resources, invest in technological advancements, and improve service delivery to residents of all ages. Libraries serve as vital community hubs, offering educational programming, workforce development tools, and digital access that bridge gaps in opportunity and equity.

However, the Prince George's County Council's support for House Bill 597/Senate Bill 515 is contingent upon a fundamental provision: that the financial obligations mandated by this bill remain the sole responsibility of the State and are not, at any point, deferred to county governments. As our county navigates its own budgetary responsibilities, it is imperative that state-level funding commitments remain intact and are not shifted in a manner that places undue fiscal strain on local jurisdictions. The success of this bill hinges on ensuring that counties can continue to rely on state investment without facing unanticipated financial burdens.

We commend the sponsors of House Bill 597/Senate Bill 515 for their commitment to strengthening Maryland's library system and urge the committee's favorable consideration of this bill. We respectfully request the General Assembly's assurance that the mandated funding increases remain fully funded at the state level, ensuring equitable access to high-quality library services across all jurisdictions.

Prepared by: Ashlar Government Relations on behalf of Prince George's County Council

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