

# HOUSE BILL 1463

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CF SB 848

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By: **Delegate Edelson**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2024

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that Baltimore City must provide a certain  
4 match to receive certain State funds for certain operating expenses of the Enoch  
5 Pratt Free Library; requiring a certain annual appropriation for certain branches of  
6 the Enoch Pratt Free Library for certain capital expenses in certain fiscal years;  
7 requiring the Board of Trustees of the Enoch Pratt Free Library to demonstrate a  
8 certain match under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the Enoch  
9 Pratt Free Library.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Education  
12 Section 23–402(a)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Education**

18 23–402.

19 (a) (1) The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall be governed by the  
20 requirements and regulations pertaining to the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore City  
21 as provided in Chapter 181 of the Acts of 1882 and any other laws applicable to the  
22 operation of public libraries.

23 (2) The powers and duties of the Board of Trustees of the Enoch Pratt Free  
24 Library are as provided in Chapter 181 of the Acts of 1882 and the Charter and the Articles  
25 of Incorporation of the Enoch Pratt Free Library and other laws applicable to the Board of

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Trustees of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

2 (3) A State grant shall be made available to fund the increased operating  
3 expenses for the branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library that increase their operating  
4 hours above the hours in effect as of January 1, 2016.

5 (4) (i) For fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor  
6 shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$3,000,000 to support the  
7 additional operating expenses for the increased hours of operation of all branches of the  
8 Enoch Pratt Free Library subject to increased operating hours as provided in paragraph (3)  
9 of this subsection.

10 (ii) [1. To receive any State funds under subparagraph (i) of this  
11 paragraph, Baltimore City shall provide a 25% match for each dollar of State funds granted  
12 to support the additional operating expenses related to the increased hours of operation of  
13 the branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library that, in that fiscal year, will be subject to  
14 increased operating hours as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection.

15 2. Baltimore City may use public and private funds to satisfy  
16 the requirements of subparagraph 1 of this subparagraph.

17 (iii) 1.] In calculating the additional operating expenses of the  
18 increased hours of operation, the baseline hours of operation of all branches of the Enoch  
19 Pratt Free Library are those hours of operation in effect as of January 1, 2016.

20 [2. The Maryland State Library Agency shall establish a  
21 process to distribute the State grant to Baltimore City or the Enoch Pratt Free Library for  
22 the additional operating expenses related to the increased hours of operation.]

23 (5) (i) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the operating hours  
24 of the branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library that are increased in accordance with  
25 paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection shall be utilized to advance the library's  
26 commitment to equity, inclusion, and greater access to library resources, programs, and  
27 services.

28 (ii) On or before September 30, 2023, and each September 30  
29 thereafter, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City shall provide a report to the  
30 Department of Budget and Management and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
31 Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House  
32 Appropriations Committee that includes:

33 1. A list of the branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library with  
34 increased operating hours for the previous fiscal year that are above the operating hours in  
35 effect as of January 1, 2016; and

36 2. An evaluation of the impact of the increased hours of  
37 operation of the branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

1           **(6) (I) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**  
2 **INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$10,000,000 TO**  
3 **FUND AGING INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT**  
4 **EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF \$1,000,000 FOR ALL BRANCHES OF THE ENOCH PRATT**  
5 **FREE LIBRARY SYSTEM, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR:**

6                   **1. REQUIRED ALTERATIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH**  
7 **THE FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT;**

8                   **2. REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF ROOF AND HVAC**  
9 **SYSTEMS;**

10                   **3. TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES TO PROVIDE**  
11 **21ST-CENTURY LIBRARY SERVICES;**

12                   **4. GENERAL RENOVATIONS OF EXISTING FACILITIES;**  
13 **AND**

14                   **5. REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE OR UNSAFE BUILDINGS**  
15 **WITH NEW INFRASTRUCTURE.**

16                   **(II) 1. TO RECEIVE ANY STATE FUNDS UNDER**  
17 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ENOCH**  
18 **PRATT FREE LIBRARY SHALL DEMONSTRATE A 10% MATCH FOR EACH DOLLAR OF**  
19 **STATE FUNDS GRANTED.**

20                   **2. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ENOCH PRATT**  
21 **FREE LIBRARY MAY USE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS TO SATISFY THE MATCH**  
22 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS GRANT.**

23                   **(III) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE**  
24 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY UTILIZE THIS GRANT**  
25 **TO:**

26                   **1. ADVANCE THE ROLE OF THE STATE LIBRARY**  
27 **BRANCHES AS:**

28                   **A. A VIBRANT AND VITAL PLACE OF COMMUNITY**  
29 **DEVELOPMENT;**

30                   **B. ARENAS FOR INNOVATION; AND**

1 C. VITAL RESOURCES FOR THE STATE’S WORKFORCE  
2 SYSTEM; AND

3 2. SUPPORT THE REIMAGINING OF LIBRARY SPACES TO  
4 ADVANCE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND TO ENABLE PATRONS TO:

5 A. GAIN DIGITAL SKILLS;

6 B. ACCESS NEW TECHNOLOGIES; AND

7 C. PURSUE VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL  
8 PROGRAMS.

9 (IV) ANY FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH ARE  
10 SUPPLEMENTAL TO, AND MAY NOT SUPPLANT, FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE  
11 ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCES.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
13 1, 2024.