

Chapter 401

(House Bill 436)

AN ACT concerning

Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding

FOR the purpose of requiring a certain annual appropriation for certain branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library that extend operating hours and services above those as of a certain date; declaring that it is the intent of the General Assembly to utilize increased operating hours and services to advance the library's commitment to equity, inclusion, and greater access to library resources, programs, and services; requiring the Mayor and City Council to provide a certain report on or before a certain date each year; making a technical correction; and generally relating to operating hours and funding of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 23–402(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

23–402.

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

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

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

(4) (i) For fiscal year [2018 through fiscal year 2022] **2023 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER**, the Governor shall include in the [State operating] **ANNUAL**

budget **BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,000,000 [in general funds]** to support the additional operating expenses for the increased hours of operation of [the] **ALL** branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library [that, in the fiscal year, will be] subject to increased operating hours as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection.

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

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

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

2. The [State Library Board] **MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY AGENCY** shall establish a process to distribute the State grant to Baltimore City or the Enoch Pratt Free Library for the additional operating expenses related to the increased hours of operation.

(5) (I) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE OPERATING HOURS OF THE BRANCHES OF THE ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY THAT ARE INCREASED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPHS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE UTILIZED TO ADVANCE THE LIBRARY'S COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND GREATER ACCESS TO LIBRARY RESOURCES, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES.

(II) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, AND EACH SEPTEMBER 30 THEREAFTER, THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY SHALL PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE THAT INCLUDES:

1. **A LIST OF THE BRANCHES OF THE ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY WITH INCREASED OPERATING HOURS FOR THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR THAT ARE ABOVE THE OPERATING HOURS IN EFFECT AS OF JANUARY 1, 2016; AND**

2. **AN EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE INCREASED HOURS OF OPERATION OF THE BRANCHES OF THE ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.