

HOUSE BILL 383

P3, F5

2lr0530
CF 2lr2147

By: **Delegates Korman and Solomon**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Young Readers Programs – Establishment**
3 **(Young Readers Program Expansion Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore City Young Readers Program within the
5 Division of Children and Youth of the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth,
6 and Victim Services to mail free, high–quality books to certain children; establishing
7 the Young Readers Matching Grant Program within the Division to provide
8 matching grants to counties to support the establishment and operation of book
9 gifting services; requiring the Deputy Director of the Division to administer the
10 programs; and generally relating to Young Readers Programs.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Human Services
13 Section 8–1401 through 8–1403 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 14. Young
14 Readers Programs”
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, The Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
19 has been funding the Baltimore City Young Readers Program since 2016; and

20 WHEREAS, The Program has been budgeted at \$200,000 annually; and

21 WHEREAS, The Program is an affiliate of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library; and

22 WHEREAS, The Program has been undertaken in partnership with the
23 Banneker–Douglass Museum Foundation; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



WHEREAS, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has gifted over 172 million books worldwide to children, regardless of their family's income; now, therefore,

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

Article – Human Services

SUBTITLE 14. YOUNG READERS PROGRAMS.

8–1401.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “DOLLY PARTON’S IMAGINATION LIBRARY” MEANS A SERVICE THAT:

(1) MAILS FREE, HIGH-QUALITY BOOKS TO CHILDREN FROM BIRTH UNTIL SCHOOL AGE, WITHOUT REGARD TO FAMILY INCOME; AND

(2) IS AFFILIATED WITH THE DOLLYWOOD FOUNDATION.

8–1402.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE BALTIMORE CITY YOUNG READERS PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS A BALTIMORE CITY YOUNG READERS PROGRAM IN THE DIVISION.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO WORK WITH DOLLY PARTON’S IMAGINATION LIBRARY TO MAIL FREE, HIGH-QUALITY BOOKS TO CHILDREN IN BALTIMORE CITY.

(D) THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHALL:

(1) ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; AND

(2) CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A NONPROFIT (501(C)(3)) PARTNER.

(E) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$200,000 TO THE PROGRAM.

8–1403.

1 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
2 INDICATED.

3 (2) “AFFILIATED SERVICE” MEANS A BOOK-GIFTING SERVICE
4 AFFILIATED WITH DOLLY PARTON’S IMAGINATION LIBRARY.

5 (3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE YOUNG READERS MATCHING GRANT
6 PROGRAM.

7 (B) THERE IS A YOUNG READERS MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM IN THE
8 DIVISION.

9 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO COUNTIES
10 THAT:

11 (1) SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF AFFILIATED
12 SERVICES; AND

13 (2) CONTRIBUTE AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING
14 PROVIDED FOR THE OPERATION OF AN AFFILIATED SERVICE IN THE COUNTY.

15 (D) THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

16 (E) (1) A COUNTY MAY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A PROGRAM GRANT
17 ON THE FORM THAT THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR REQUIRES.

18 (2) AN APPLICATION FOR A PROGRAM GRANT SHALL:

19 (I) IDENTIFY AN AFFILIATED SERVICE OPERATING IN THE
20 COUNTY; AND

21 (II) INCLUDE A PLAN TO ENSURE THAT THE AFFILIATED
22 SERVICE IS ABLE TO GIFT BOOKS TO ELIGIBLE CHILDREN, INCLUDING CHILDREN IN
23 LOW-INCOME ZIP CODES WITHIN THE COUNTY.

24 (F) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE
25 ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE PROGRAM.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2022.