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Maryland State Library Agency

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Response to the Analyst's Review

House Education & Economic Development Subcommittee
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The Maryland State Library Agency (MSL) welcomes this opportunity to share with the Committee some additional information about Maryland Libraries.

The General Assembly unanimously passed historic legislation establishing the Maryland State Library (MSL) Agency and the Maryland State Library Board during the 2017 Session (Senate Bill 587/House Bill 1094). These changes to the Maryland Code created a new independent State agency and placed libraries on equal footing with K-12 and higher education. Governor Hogan signed this bill into law on April 18, 2017 with the effective date of July 1, 2017. The State Librarian administers the agency with oversight by the State Library Board. Their organizational meeting was held in September with subsequent quarterly regular meetings.

We thank the General Assembly and the Governor for their strong support of Maryland's Libraries!

MSL continues to administer State and Federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources, programs, and excellent customer service. The agency provides statewide leadership in the transformation of libraries and library services in an increasingly digital information environment. In order to create real change, Maryland's libraries are going *beyond* historical relationships, rethinking how they leverage technology to best serve readers, and even shift paradigms—for instance, from repository to creator. MSL leadership promotes planning and innovation in the development of library programs, encourages the ongoing development of staff expertise through education and training and promote resource sharing among all types of libraries.

The State Library Agency offices were relocated in June from MSDE headquarters to temporary space in the basement of a shared facility with the non-profit Maryland Library Association in Baltimore. This resulted in a loss of 3,000 square feet of workspace, and we are currently working with the Department of General Services (DGS) to identify a more suitable permanent location. Similarly, we have been working with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to set up independent oversight of personnel and financial management. We upgraded an existing PIN to create the new position of Administrator III, Finance and Support Services. MSDE has continued to provide assistance during this transition.

The Maryland State Library accomplishments for the first 6 months include the development of a transition plan; the negotiation of a MOU with MSDE for financial and human resources services support; the development of the MSL website and logo; the revision of the capital regulation; the development of the FY2019 Capital and Operating Budgets for submission to the Governor; facilities updates at LBPH and MSL headquarters, and the submission of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) 5-Year Plan, 2018-2022 to the Institute Of Museums and Libraries (IMLS).

MSL responsibilities include oversight of: the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Maryland's Public Libraries, the State Library Resource Center, the three Regional Libraries, the Library Capital Grants Programs, and the Deaf Culture Digital Library.

The following information provides more detail about the roles and responsibilities of the Maryland Stat Library:

The **Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH)** is a statewide library program serving 8,500 blind, visually impaired, physically disabled and reading disabled Maryland residents. This library is the primary source of books, periodicals and other information in formats such as Braille, large print, and recorded books. Over 200,000 items are borrowed per year. LBPH offers an ambitious series of programs including tactile tours of the Walters Museum and other fine arts programs, technology programs, poetry readings, and outreach to various public library systems and health related organizations throughout the state. LBPH also coordinates the Maryland Accessible Textbook Program. This program coordinates the statewide availability of textbooks and supplementary materials in electronic format to eligible blind or print disabled students who are enrolled in institutions of higher education and institutions of postsecondary education in the state.

The **Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB)** provides leadership in the area of library development to meet the library and information needs of all residents. Through statewide collaborative assessment, staff identifies library needs and provides for research and the distribution of findings, provides technical and professional assistance, collects and reports public library statistics, and coordinates marketing and outreach for libraries throughout the state.

PLSNB has oversight of and coordinates the **Maryland State Library Network**. The network provides Maryland residents with access to information through interlibrary loans; direct lending of resources through public, academic, special, and school libraries; technical assistance, staff training, and the coordination of marketing and outreach activities. The network encompasses: Maryland's public libraries, the State Library Resource Center and the three regional libraries: the Eastern Shore Regional Library (ESRL) in Salisbury, the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA) and the Western Maryland Regional Library (WMRL) in Hagerstown.

In 1971, as an alternative to maintaining a separate State library facility and collection, the Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL) system was established as the location for the **State Library Resource Center (SLRC)**. The State funding for SLRC and other parts of the State Library Network is provided by the Maryland State Library. MSL contracts with the Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL) to operate the SLRC. The SLRC provides a multitude of services to Marylanders and serves as a back-up source of information for local libraries and customers, providing lending opportunities for libraries within the State Library Network. SLRC also provides valuable information to State government employees through the Government Reference Service. SLRC operates SAILOR, Maryland's on-line electronic information network, and MARINA.

There are three **Regional Library Systems** that support the network. They include the Eastern Shore Regional Library, Inc., in Salisbury, the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, Inc. in Charlotte Hall and the Western Maryland Regional Library in Hagerstown.

Maryland's Public Libraries ongoing efforts to continually transform to meet society's changing needs have proven to be very successful. Moving forward from being providers of books and information, public libraries now respond to a wide range of ongoing and emerging needs. Maryland's public libraries support economic growth by providing resources for job seekers and small businesses. They deliver computer training and access, along with educational

programs and library materials in both print and digital formats. They have deepened their engagement within their communities in many ways, addressing current social, economic, and environmental issues, often through partnerships with governments and other organizations.

The vital role public libraries play in communities has expanded to include services and programs for child-care, legal assistance and social work. Maryland's Libraries are responding to the ever-changing needs of children and teens. Summer reading, is evolving into summer learning. Summer programs have flourished in recent years; they now integrate traditional reading activities with others that explore such special interests as the arts, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), and digital learning. Opportunities for teen creativity include dedicated makerspaces and other reconfigurations of the library's space. Adults continue to find libraries a place for lifelong learning with resources and programs useful in exploring new ideas, personal interests, and careers. Increasingly, libraries also offer patrons a neutral space to meet their neighbors and discuss and resolve important issues.

Maryland's Public Libraries continue to be among the best in the nation, ranking near the top in most measures of library effectiveness. The most recent library statistics show that:

- **3.5 million, or 58% of Maryland residents, have library cards** and are eligible to borrow from any public library in the State to meet their information and reading needs.
- **Maryland residents borrowed a total of just over 58 million items** — 16.8 items per registered borrower. The borrowing of e-materials accounted for 4.4 million of these transactions
- **Over 27 million Marylanders visited the library in 2016.**
- **Librarians across the state answered 8.5 million questions.**
- **100% of Maryland public library systems are connected to the Internet.** Approximately **5,200 computers are available to the public through the 190 branch libraries and more than 5.4 million transactions were conducted in 2016.**
- For many residents, **Maryland libraries now serve as the primary access point for information services and technology.**

Completing the network is Maryland's elementary, middle and secondary **school media centers; college and university libraries; and state institutional libraries** that serve people with mental illness and the incarcerated.

The Maryland State Library also oversees the **Library Capital Grants Program**. The County Library Capital Grants Program supports public library capital projects. Statute mandates that \$5,000,000 be included in the Governor's Capital Budget for this program each year. The grant program continues to meet the goal of geographic diversity in the distribution of awards. During the first 10 years of the program, twenty one (21) public library systems have received grant awards for capital improvements. While Calvert and Garrett Counties have not yet requested grant funds, Queen Anne's County received funding in FY2018 to renovate and expand the Kent Island Library. Upon completion of current projects through FY2018, **the State's investment of \$50,025,000 will have generated more than \$300,000,000 in local matching funds** since the inception of the program. Six (6) new state of the art library facilities are currently underway in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Frederick, St. Mary's, Washington, and Worcester Counties with support from the State.

Again, we wish to thank the General Assembly for their support of the Maryland State Library Agency and public libraries.