

State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education, and the Governor.

The Council has twelve members. Seven are appointed by the Governor to five-year terms. Five serve ex officio. The Governor names the chair. The Assistant State Superintendent for Library Development and Services is secretary to the Council (Code Education Article, sec. 23-106).

MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY FOR THE
BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Sharron D. McFarland, *Chief*

415 Park Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 333-2083

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped opened in 1968. The Library serves eligible blind and physically handicapped residents of Maryland. It is the Maryland regional library under the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress.

The Library has two subregional branches: the Special Needs Library, and the Talking Book Center.

SPECIAL NEEDS LIBRARY

Charlotte H. Stinnett, *Librarian*

6400 Democracy Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20817 (301) 897-2212

The Special Needs Library started in 1972. The Library serves the blind and physically handicapped residents of Montgomery County.

TALKING BOOK CENTER

Judith A. Walsh, *Librarian*

6532 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782 (301) 927-3388

The Talking Book Center was founded in 1980. The Center serves the blind and physically handicapped residents of Prince George's County.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES & STATE
NETWORKING BRANCH

Rivkah K. Sass, *Chief*
(410) 767-0443

Origins of the Public Libraries and State Networking Branch trace to 1902 when the State Library Commission was created (Chapter 47, Acts of 1902). Commission responsibilities for public library development were assigned to the Office of Public Libraries under the State Board of Education in 1935, and to the Division of Library Extension from 1947 to 1971. Within the Division of Library Development and Services, the Public Libraries Branch was formed in 1971 and renamed the Public Libraries and State

Networking Branch in 1988. The Branch provides leadership and technical assistance to improve library service.

The Branch oversees the State Library Network through which Maryland residents obtain library materials and gain access to information not available in their local library. The Network provides interlibrary loan, direct lending of materials, technical assistance to libraries, and staff training. More than 400 Maryland libraries participate in the State Library Network. These include public, university, college and community college libraries. The Network is centered at Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. The Network is aided by three regional resource centers: the Eastern Shore Regional Resource Center (Salisbury); Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (Charlotte Hall); and the Western Maryland Public Libraries Regional Resource Center (Hagerstown) (Code Education Article, secs. 23-201, 23-202).

STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

Carla D. Hayden, Ph.D., *Director*

Enoch Pratt Free Library
400 Cathedral St.
Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 396-5395

In 1971, the Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library System was designated as the State Library Resource Center (Chapter 770, Acts of 1971). The Center lends books and other materials to libraries in the State Library Network from sources within Maryland and out of State via the Maryland Interlibrary Organization. It also provides information to State government through the Government Reference Service (Code Education Article, sec. 23-201).

The Center administers Sailor, Maryland's online electronic information network. Overseen by the Division of Library Development and Services in conjunction with the Center, Sailor connects Marylanders to information resources within the State and worldwide. It also provides access to Internet resources. Sailor allows users to identify and locate books; articles in magazines, newspapers, and journals; answers to specific questions; or information on a particular topic. It gives information about services of public and private agencies; and government information, such as proposed legislation, job listings, and census data. In all twenty-three counties and Baltimore City, Sailor is available without charge through libraries and by dial access on modem-equipped computers.