

SENATE BILL 495

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SB 762/98 - B&T

1999 Regular Session
9r2105

By: **Senators Blount and Kelley**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Baltimore City - West Arlington Planetarium and**
3 **Multipurpose Center**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$750,000,
5 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the West Arlington
6 Improvement Association of Baltimore City, Inc. for certain acquisition,
7 development, or improvement purposes; providing for disbursement of the loan
8 proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a
9 matching fund; requiring the grantee to grant and convey to the Maryland
10 Historical Trust a certain kind of easement; and providing generally for the
11 issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the loan.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on
15 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Baltimore
16 City - West Arlington Planetarium and Multipurpose Center Loan of 1999 in a total
17 principal amount equal to the lesser of (i) \$750,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching
18 fund provided in accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by
19 the issuance, sale, and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a
20 resolution of the Board of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance
21 with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and
22 Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

23 (2) The bonds to evidence this loan or installments of this loan may be sold as
24 a single issue or may be consolidated and sold as part of a single issue of bonds under
25 § 8-122 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

26 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer
27 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and
28 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then
29 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the
30 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable
31 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Directors of the West
32 Arlington Improvement Association of Baltimore City, Inc. (referred to hereafter in

1 this Act as "the grantee") for the planning, design, repair, renovation, rehabilitation
2 and capital equipping of the historic water tower in the West Arlington neighborhood
3 of Baltimore City, the facility to be used as a planetarium and sky theater, and for the
4 planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of a multipurpose center at the
5 same site, the center to contain a swimming pool, community room, arts and crafts
6 room, offices, and other appropriate facilities.

7 (4) An annual State tax is imposed on all assessable property in the State in
8 rate and amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds, as and
9 when due and until paid in full. The principal shall be discharged within 15 years
10 after the date of issuance of the bonds.

11 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the
12 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a
13 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either
14 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or
15 unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of real property, in kind
16 contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any
17 dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify
18 as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the
19 Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2001, to present evidence
20 satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If
21 satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of
22 the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the
23 amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act.
24 Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the
25 Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

26 (6) (a) Prior to the issuance of the bonds, the grantee shall grant and convey
27 to the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement to the extent of
28 its interest:

29 (i) On the land or such portion of the land acceptable to the Trust;
30 and

31 (ii) On the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the historic
32 structures.

33 (b) The easement must be in form and substance acceptable to the Trust
34 and the extent of the interest to be encumbered must be acceptable to the Trust.

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
36 June 1, 1999.