

SENATE BILL 470

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HB 566/97 - APP

2000 Regular Session
0lr0584
CF 0lr0940

By: **Senator Colburn**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 29, 2000

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Dorchester County - Meredith House**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed ~~\$159,000~~
4 \$100,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the
5 Dorchester County Historical Society, Inc. for certain development or
6 improvement purposes; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject
7 to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund;
8 ~~requiring the grantee to convey a historic easement to the Maryland Historical~~
9 ~~Society~~; and providing generally for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing
10 the loan.

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

13 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on
14 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Dorchester
15 County - Meredith House Loan of 2000 in a total principal amount equal to the lesser
16 of (i) ~~\$159,000~~ \$100,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in
17 accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale,
18 and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board
19 of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through
20 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

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

24 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer
25 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and

1 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then
 2 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the
 3 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable
 4 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Dorchester
 5 County Historical Society, Inc. (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for
 6 the design, construction, repair, renovation, and restoration of the reconstruction, and
 7 capital equipping of Meredith House in Cambridge, the primary museum building on
 8 the LaGrange Plantation.

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

13 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the
 14 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a
 15 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either
 16 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or
 17 unappropriated. The fund may consist of in kind contributions, real property, or funds
 18 expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount
 19 of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the
 20 Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final.
 21 The grantee has until June 1, 2002, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of
 22 Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is
 23 presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of the matching fund to
 24 the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the amount of the matching
 25 fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act. Any amount of the loan
 26 in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the Board of Public Works
 27 shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

28 ~~(6) (a) Prior to the issuance of the bonds, the grantee shall grant and convey~~
 29 ~~to the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement to the extent of~~
 30 ~~its interest.~~

31 ~~(i) On the land or such portion of the land acceptable to the Trust;~~
 32 ~~and~~

33 ~~(ii) On the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the historic~~
 34 ~~structures.~~

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

37 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 38 June 1, 2000.

