

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 340 (Senator Middleton)
Budget and Taxation

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2008 - Charles County - Lions
Camp Merrick

This emergency bill changes the name of the grantee for the Lions Camp Merrick project, as specified by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2008. The current grantee is the Board of Directors of Lions Camp Merrick, Inc.; the bill specifies that the project's grantee is the Board of Directors of Waldorf Lions Foundation.

The bill extends the deadline by three years – from June 1, 2010, to June 1, 2013 – for the grantee to present evidence of a matching fund. The proceeds of this loan must be encumbered by the Board of Public Works or expended by June 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect the finances or operations of Charles County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 336 of 2008 authorized up to \$150,500 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of Lions Camp Merrick, Inc. for the renovation of the septic system at Camp Merrick, located in Nanjemoy. Matching funds may consist of real property or in-kind contributions but may not consist of funds expended prior to the June 1, 2008 effective date of Chapter 336.

In addition, between 1998 and 2007, Lions Camp Merrick was awarded about \$1.2 million in State matching funds for various capital projects at the camp, including constructing office space, staff cabin space, a water filtration plant, and a dining hall.

Background: Lions Camp Merrick is a 320-acre overnight (residential) camp facility near the Potomac River in western Charles County. The facility offers camping and educational opportunities to children with disabilities and youth or community organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H groups. State matching funds were authorized in 2007, as well as in 2008, to install a wastewater treatment system on the property and connect the new septic system to existing buildings with inadequate wastewater treatment facilities.

Lions Camp Merrick, Inc. advises that the engineering work is nearly complete and the project will soon be seeking bids from contractors to install the new wastewater treatment system. Lions Camp Merrick, Inc. advises that the camp property will be used as evidence of the existence of a matching fund. However, due to a discrepancy pertaining to the ownership of the land in the original language of the grant, Lions Camp Merrick, Inc. was not able to certify matching funds included in Chapter 336 of 2008. According to Lions Camp Merrick, Inc., the bill's changes allow matching funds to be certified for their intended purpose.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Lions Camp Merrick, Inc.; Charles County; Department of General Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2011
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