

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1461 (Delegate Beitzel)  
Appropriations

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Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - Garrett County - Oakland  
B&O Railroad Museum

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This bill extends the deadline – from June 1, 2012, to June 1, 2013 – for the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Oakland, as grantee, to provide evidence that a matching fund will be provided for the Oakland B&O Museum project, as required in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010. The bill also specifies that proceeds of the loan must be encumbered by the Board of Public Works or expended by the grantee by June 1, 2013.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** Absent the bill, the Town of Oakland could lose access to the \$200,000 in matching funds authorized for this project.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 483 of 2010 authorized up to \$200,000 for the planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Oakland B&O Museum. Matching funds may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2010 effective date of Chapter 483. The grantee has until June 1, 2012, to present evidence that the required matching funds will be provided.

The proceeds of the loan must be encumbered by the Board of Public Works or expended by the grantee by June 1, 2012. Chapter 483 authorized two separate grants; the bill's changes affect both grants.

**Background:** Developing the B&O Oakland Museum is the final step in revitalizing Oakland's main street and museum complex. The grantee anticipates that renovating the museum will draw more charter bus tours and school groups to Oakland, which will invigorate the local economy. The museum is being developed in Oakland's historic 1884 railroad station, which needs air conditioning, humidity controls, ultraviolet filters, and upgraded heating and security systems. Once the building renovations are complete, the museum will be ready to develop permanent exhibits and accept circulating exhibits from the B&O Museum in Baltimore and the Smithsonian Institution.

The grantee reports that developing the architectural plans for the museum took longer than anticipated due to the easement granted to the Maryland Historical Trust. The grantee reports that the project is now ready to go to bid, and it is anticipated the project will take three months to complete. Therefore, the grantee anticipates the project will be completed by June 1, 2013.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 1071 (Senator Edwards) - Budget and Taxation.

**Information Source(s):** Department of General Services, Garrett County, Town of Oakland, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 13, 2012  
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