

HOUSE BILL 545

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By: **Carroll County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Carroll County – Public Facilities Bonds**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing and empowering the County Commissioners of Carroll
4 County, from time to time, to borrow not more than \$20,000,000 in order to
5 finance the construction, improvement, or development of certain public
6 facilities in Carroll County, including water and sewer projects, to finance loans
7 for fire or emergency–related equipment, buildings, and other facilities of
8 volunteer fire departments in the County, and to effect such borrowing by the
9 issuance and sale at public or private sale of its general obligation bonds in like
10 par amount; empowering the County to fix and determine, by resolution, the
11 form, tenor, interest rate or rates or method of determining the same, terms,
12 conditions, maturities, and all other details incident to the issuance and sale of
13 the bonds; empowering the County to issue refunding bonds for the purchase or
14 redemption of bonds in advance of maturity; providing that such borrowing may
15 be undertaken by the County in the form of installment purchase obligations
16 executed and delivered by the County for the purpose of acquiring agricultural
17 land and woodland preservation easements; empowering and directing the
18 County to levy, impose, and collect, annually, ad valorem taxes in rate and
19 amount sufficient to provide funds for the payment of the maturing principal of
20 and interest on the bonds; exempting the bonds and refunding bonds and the
21 interest thereon and any income derived therefrom from all State, County,
22 municipal, and other taxation in the State of Maryland; providing that nothing
23 in this Act shall prevent the County from authorizing the issuance and sale of
24 bonds the interest on which is not excludable from gross income for federal
25 income tax purposes; and relating generally to the issuance and sale of such
26 bonds.

27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
28 MARYLAND, That, as used herein, the term “County” means the body politic and
29 corporate of the State of Maryland known as the County Commissioners of Carroll
30 County, and the term “construction, improvement, or development of public facilities”

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 means the acquisition, alteration, construction, reconstruction, enlargement,
2 equipping, expansion, extension, improvement, rehabilitation, renovation, upgrading,
3 and repair of public buildings and facilities and public works projects, including, but
4 not limited to, public works projects such as roads, bridges and storm drains, public
5 school buildings and facilities, landfills, Carroll Community College buildings and
6 facilities, public operational buildings and facilities such as buildings and facilities for
7 County administrative use, public safety, health and social services, libraries, refuse
8 disposal buildings and facilities, water and sewer infrastructure facilities, easements
9 or similar or related rights in land that restrict the use of agricultural land or
10 woodland to maintain the character of the land as agricultural land or woodland, and
11 parks and recreation buildings and facilities, together with the costs of acquiring land
12 or interests in land as well as any related architectural, financial, legal, planning, or
13 engineering services.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the County is hereby
15 authorized to finance any part or all of the costs of the construction, improvements or
16 development of public facilities described in Section 1 of this Act, to make loans to
17 each and every volunteer fire department in the County upon such terms and
18 conditions as may be determined by the County for the purpose of financing certain
19 fire or emergency-related equipment, buildings, or other facilities of volunteer fire
20 departments, and to borrow money and incur indebtedness for those purposes, at one
21 time or from time to time, in an amount not exceeding, in the aggregate, \$20,000,000
22 and to evidence such borrowing by the issuance and sale upon its full faith and credit
23 of general obligation bonds in like par amount, which may be issued at one time or
24 from time to time, in one or more groups or series, as the County may determine.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the bonds shall be issued
26 in accordance with a resolution of the County, which shall describe generally the
27 construction, improvement, or development of public facilities, including water and
28 sewer projects, the fire or emergency-related equipment, buildings, or other facilities
29 of volunteer fire departments in the County for which the proceeds of the bond sale are
30 intended and the amount needed for those purposes. The County shall have and is
31 hereby granted full and complete authority and discretion in the resolution to fix and
32 determine with respect to the bonds of any issue: the designation, date of issue,
33 denomination or denominations, form or forms, and tenor of the bonds which, without
34 limitation, may be issued in registered form within the meaning of § 19-204 of the
35 Local Government Article, as amended; the rate or rates of interest payable thereon,
36 or the method of determining the same, which may include a variable rate; the date or
37 dates and amount or amounts of maturity, which need not be in equal par amounts or
38 in consecutive annual installments, provided only that no bond of any issue shall
39 mature later than 30 years from the date of its issue; the manner of selling the bonds,
40 which may be at either public or private sale, for such price or prices as may be
41 determined to be for the best interests of Carroll County; the manner of executing and
42 sealing the bonds, which may be by facsimile; the terms and conditions of any loans
43 made to volunteer fire departments; the terms and conditions, if any, under which
44 bonds may be tendered for payment or purchase prior to their stated maturity; the
45 terms or conditions, if any, under which bonds may or shall be redeemed prior to their

1 stated maturity; the place or places of payment of the principal of and the interest on
2 the bonds, which may be at any bank or trust company within or without the State of
3 Maryland; covenants relating to compliance with applicable requirements of federal
4 income tax law, including (without limitation) covenants regarding the payment of
5 rebate or penalties in lieu of rebate; covenants relating to compliance with applicable
6 requirements of federal or State securities laws; and generally all matters incident to
7 the terms, conditions, issuance, sale, and delivery thereof.

8 The bonds may be made redeemable before maturity, at the option of the
9 County, at such price or prices and under such terms and conditions as may be fixed
10 by the County prior to the issuance of the bonds, either in the resolution or in
11 subsequent resolutions. The bonds may be issued in registered form, and provision
12 may be made for the registration of the principal only. In case any officer whose
13 signature appears on any bond ceases to be such officer before the delivery thereof,
14 such signature shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes as if the
15 officer had remained in office until such delivery. The bonds and the issuance and sale
16 thereof shall be exempt from the provisions of §§ 19-205 and 19-206 of the Local
17 Government Article, as amended.

18 The borrowing authorized by this Act may also be undertaken by the County in
19 the form of installment purchase obligations executed and delivered by the County for
20 the purpose of acquiring easements or similar or related rights in land that restrict the
21 use of agricultural land or woodland to maintain the character of the land as
22 agricultural or woodland. The form of installment purchase obligations, the manner of
23 accomplishing the acquisition of easements, which may be the direct exchange of
24 installment purchase obligations for easement, and all matters incident to the
25 execution and delivery of the installment purchase obligations and acquisition of the
26 easements by the County shall be determined in the resolution. Except where the
27 provisions of this Act would be inapplicable to installment purchase obligations, the
28 term "bonds" used in this Act shall include installment purchase obligations and
29 matters pertaining to the bonds under this Act, such as the security for the payment of
30 the bonds, the exemption of the bonds from State, County, municipal, or other
31 taxation, and authorization to issue refunding bonds and the limitation on the
32 aggregate principal amount of bonds authorized for issuance, shall be applicable to
33 installment purchase obligations.

34 The County may enter into agreements with agents, banks, fiduciaries,
35 insurers, or others for the purpose of enhancing the marketability of any security for
36 the bonds and for the purpose of securing any tender option that may be granted to
37 holders of the bonds, all as may be determined and presented in the aforesaid
38 resolution, which may (but need not) state as security for the performance by the
39 County of any monetary obligations under such agreements the same security given by
40 the County to bondholders for the performance by the County of its monetary
41 obligations under the bonds.

42 If the County determines in the resolution to offer any of the bonds by
43 solicitation of competitive bids at public sale, the resolution shall fix the terms and

1 conditions of the public sale and shall adopt a form of notice of sale, which shall
2 outline the terms and conditions, and a form of advertisement, which shall be
3 published in one or more daily or weekly newspapers having a general circulation in
4 the County and which may also be published in one or more journals having a
5 circulation primarily among banks and investment bankers. At least one publication of
6 the advertisement shall be made not less than 10 days before the sale of the bonds.

7 Upon delivery of any bonds to the purchaser or purchasers, payment therefor
8 shall be made to the Comptroller of Carroll County or such other official of Carroll
9 County as may be designated to receive such payment in a resolution passed by the
10 County before such delivery.

11 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the net proceeds of the
12 sale of bonds shall be used and applied exclusively and solely for the acquisition,
13 construction, improvement, or development of public facilities, including water and
14 sewer projects, to make loans to volunteer fire departments for the financing of fire or
15 emergency-related equipment, buildings, or other facilities of volunteer fire
16 departments in the County for which the bonds are sold. If the amounts borrowed
17 shall prove inadequate to finance the projects described in the resolution, the County
18 may issue additional bonds with the limitations hereof for the purpose of evidencing
19 the borrowing of additional funds for such financing, provided the resolution
20 authorizing the sale of additional bonds shall so recite, but if the net proceeds of the
21 sale of any issue of bonds exceed the amount needed to finance the projects described
22 in the resolution, the excess funds so borrowed and not expended shall be applied to
23 the payment of the next principal maturity of the bonds or to the redemption of any
24 part of the bonds which have been made redeemable or to the purchase and
25 cancellation of bonds, unless the County shall adopt a resolution allocating the excess
26 funds to the acquisition, construction, improvement, or development of other public
27 facilities, including water and sewer projects, or to the making of loans for fire or
28 emergency-related equipment, buildings, or other facilities of volunteer fire
29 departments in the County, as defined and within the limits set forth in this Act.

30 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the bonds hereby
31 authorized shall constitute, and they shall so recite, an irrevocable pledge of the full
32 faith and credit and unlimited taxing power of the County to the payment of the
33 maturing principal of and interest on the bonds as and when they become payable. In
34 each and every fiscal year that any of the bonds are outstanding, the County shall levy
35 or cause to be levied ad valorem taxes upon all the assessable property within the
36 corporate limits of the County in rate and amount sufficient to provide for or assure
37 the payment, when due, of the principal of and interest on all the bonds maturing in
38 each such fiscal year and, in the event the proceeds from the taxes so levied in any
39 such fiscal year shall prove inadequate for such payment, additional taxes shall be
40 levied in the succeeding fiscal year to make up any such deficiency. The County may
41 apply to the payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds issued hereunder
42 any funds received by it as loan repayments from volunteer fire departments and any
43 funds received by it from the State of Maryland, the United States of America, any
44 agency or instrumentality thereof, or from any other source, if such funds are granted

1 for the purpose of assisting the County in financing the acquisition, construction,
2 improvement, or development of the public facilities defined in this Act, including the
3 water and sewer projects or the making of loans for the aforementioned fire or
4 emergency-related equipment, buildings, or other facilities for volunteer fire
5 departments in the County and, to the extent of any such funds received or receivable
6 in any fiscal year, the taxes that are required to be levied may be reduced accordingly.

7 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the County is further
8 authorized and empowered, at any time and from time to time, to issue its bonds in
9 the manner herein above described for the purpose of refunding, by payment at
10 maturity or upon purchase or redemption, any bonds issued hereunder. The validity of
11 any such refunding bonds shall in no way be dependent upon or related to the validity
12 or invalidity of the obligations so refunded. The powers herein granted with respect to
13 the issuance of bonds shall be applicable to the issuance of refunding bonds. Such
14 refunding bonds may be issued by the County for the purpose of providing it with
15 funds to pay any of its outstanding bonds issued hereunder at maturity, for the
16 purpose of providing it with funds to purchase in the open market any of its
17 outstanding bonds issued hereunder, prior to the maturity thereof, or for the purpose
18 of providing it with funds for the redemption prior to maturity of any outstanding
19 bonds issued hereunder which are, by their terms, redeemable, for the purpose of
20 providing it with funds to pay interest on any outstanding bonds issued hereunder
21 prior to their payment at maturity of purchase or redemption in advance of maturity,
22 or for the purpose of providing it with funds to pay any redemption or purchase
23 premium in connection with the refunding of any of its outstanding bonds issued
24 hereunder. The proceeds of the sale of any such refunding bonds shall be segregated
25 and set apart by the County as a separate trust fund to be used solely for the purpose
26 of paying the purchase or redemption prices of the bonds to be refunded.

27 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the County may, prior to
28 the preparation of definitive bonds, issue interim certificates or temporary bonds,
29 exchangeable for definitive bonds when such bonds have been executed and are
30 available for such delivery, provided, however, that any such interim certificates or
31 temporary bonds shall be issued in all respects subject to the restrictions and
32 requirements set forth in this Act. The County may, by appropriate resolution, provide
33 for the replacement of any bonds issued hereunder which shall have become mutilated
34 or lost or destroyed upon such conditions and after receiving such indemnity as the
35 County may require.

36 SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any and all obligations
37 issued pursuant to the authority of this Act, their transfer, the interest payable
38 thereon, and any income derived therefrom in the hands of the holders thereof from
39 time to time (including any profit made in the sale thereof) shall be and are hereby
40 declared to be at all times exempt from State, County, municipal, or other taxation of
41 every kind and nature whatsoever within the State of Maryland. Nothing in this Act
42 shall prevent the County from authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds the interest
43 on which is not excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes.

1 SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the authority to borrow
2 money and issue bonds conferred on the County by this Act shall be deemed to provide
3 an additional and alternative authority for borrowing money and shall be regarded as
4 supplemental and additional to powers conferred upon the County by other laws and
5 shall not be regarded as in derogation of any power now existing; and all Acts of the
6 General Assembly of Maryland heretofore passed authorizing the County to borrow
7 money are hereby continued to the extent that the powers contained in such Acts have
8 not been exercised, and nothing contained in this Act may be construed to impair, in
9 any way, the validity of any bonds that may have been issued by the County under the
10 authority of any said Acts, and the validity of the bonds is hereby ratified, confirmed,
11 and approved. This Act, being necessary for the welfare of the inhabitants of Carroll
12 County, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes hereof. All Acts and parts of
13 Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of
14 such inconsistency.

15 SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
16 effect June 1, 2014.