

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1155
Appropriations

(Calvert County Delegation)

Budget and Taxation

Calvert County - Bonding Authority

This bill authorizes the Calvert County Commissioners to issue up to \$9.41 million in general obligation bonds for the acquisition, construction, improvement, or renovation of public buildings, facilities, and public works projects. The date of maturity of the bonds cannot exceed 30 years.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Calvert County receives up to \$9.41 million in bond proceeds. County debt service expenditures increase by an estimated \$714,100 annually.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Commission counties do not have the legislative power to create debt; General Assembly authorization is required before any bonds can be sold. Calvert County is one of six counties that still operates under the commission form of government.

Background: Since 2006, Calvert County has received authorization by the General Assembly to issue up to \$229.1 million in general obligation bonds for public facilities, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. **Exhibit 2** shows the planned capital projects in Calvert County for fiscal 2017.

Exhibit 1
Bond Authorizations for Calvert County

<u>Session</u>	<u>Chapter Number</u>	<u>Authorized Amount</u>
2006	Ch. 105	\$26.100 million
2007	Ch. 597	53.110 million
2008	Ch. 77	8.895 million
2009	Ch. 381	19.025 million
2010	Ch. 135	11.275 million
2011	Ch. 150	12.325 million
2013	Ch. 56	33.810 million
2014	Ch. 43	12.650 million
2015	Ch. 27	51.925 million
10-year Total		\$229.115 million

Exhibit 2
Calvert County Bond Authorization Request
Fiscal 2017

<u>Project</u>	<u>Requested Bond Authority</u>	<u>Bond Duration</u>
Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department – New Building	\$2,030,000	15 years
Fire and Rescue Apparatus	2,937,000	15 years
West Dares Beach Road Improvements	3,100,000	15 years
Issuance Costs	143,000	15 years
<i>Subtotal 15 Years</i>	<i>\$8,210,000</i>	
Appeal Landfill – Construct Transfer Station	\$1,200,000	25 years
<i>Subtotal 25 Years</i>	<i>\$1,200,000</i>	
Total	\$9,410,000	

Local Fiscal Effect: Calvert County revenues increase by up to \$9.41 million from bond proceeds. Annual debt service costs for the bonds total approximately \$647,700 for bonds issued with a 15-year term of maturity and by an additional \$66,400 for bonds issued with a 25-year term of maturity. This estimate is based on a 2.30% interest rate and 2.75%

interest rate, respectively. To the extent that the bond issuance, interest rates, or terms of maturity deviate from this assumption, debt service expenditures would adjust accordingly.

At the end of fiscal 2014, Calvert County had approximately \$149.7 million in total outstanding debt, which represents approximately 1.2% of the county's assessable base and \$1,654 on a per capita basis. The county currently has an AAA credit rating from Standard and Poor's, an Aa1 credit rating from Moody's Investors Service, and an AAA credit rating from Fitch Ratings.

Information on local debt measures for Maryland counties and Baltimore City can be found on page 111 of the [Overview of Maryland Local Governments](#) report. A copy of the report can be found on the Department of Legislative Services website.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although not designated as a cross file, SB 307 (Calvert County Senators – Budget and Taxation) is identical.

Information Source(s): Calvert County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2016
min/hlb

Analysis by: Trevor S. Owen

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510