

ZA00L
Miscellaneous Grant Programs

***Maryland Science Center Planetarium Improvements
(Baltimore City)***

General Obligation Bonds **\$550,000**

Summary of Recommended Bond Actions

1. Maryland Science Center

Approve.

Bill Text: Provide a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Science Center, Inc. for the renovation and capital equipping of the planetarium, subject to the requirement that the grantee provide an equal and matching fund for this purpose.

Program Description: Funds will be used to renovate and construct improvements to the Maryland Science Center's Davis Planetarium, including the upgrading from analog to digital and the re-sheeting of the existing dome. The science center accommodates over 500,000 visitors annually. It offers 10 permanent exhibitions, six traveling exhibitions each year and over 50 interactive classroom and outreach programs.

Project Analysis

The fiscal 2013 allowance includes \$550,000 in general obligation bond funds to assist with the renovation of the Davis Planetarium. Specifically, funds are needed to upgrade dated components of the systems, many of which are over 30 years old. In some cases, replacement parts are no longer available for purchase.

One component of the project is the installation of a state-of-the-art digital video system to replace the current analog system. The new system will present high resolution space science visualizations for educational and interactive programming. An accompanying new sound system will provide the full spectrum of audio representation, including low frequency rumbling sounds that will shake the theater for optimal effect.

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Also included in the planned renovation is the replacement of the planetarium dome. The aluminum sheeting that provides the projection surface dates from 1975 and has been damaged due to dripping water from roof leaks. Additionally, the renovation calls for the replacement of seats and carpet, much of which is original from 1975.

Fiscal 2013 marks the first year in which this particular project has appeared in the *Capital Improvement Program*. However, it also marks the only year in which funding is required. Total project costs are estimated to be just over \$2 million. The State contribution totals 27.1% of total project costs. The science center has secured a donation from the Northrup Grumman Corporation in the amount of \$1 million. Further fundraising has resulted in an additional \$480,000.

The Maryland Science Center opened its Baltimore Inner Harbor location in 1976 with interactive exhibits and the Davis Planetarium. A new atrium lobby was added in 1986 and the IMAX theater in 1987. The State has a substantial history of general obligation support of the facility. In recent history, the State has authorized \$17.1 million since 1999 for various improvements including the expansion and acquisition of permanent exhibits, the construction of the café, and the replacement of a glass curtain wall and a green roof.

Prior Authorization and Capital Improvement Program

**Authorization Uses
(\$ in Millions)**

<i>Fund Uses</i>	<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>2013 Request</i>	<i>2014 Estimate</i>	<i>2015 Estimate</i>	<i>2016 Estimate</i>	<i>2017 Estimate</i>
Acquisition	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
Planning	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Construction	0.000	0.492	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Equipment	0.000	1.538	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	\$0.000	\$2.030	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

**Authorization Sources
(\$ in Millions)**

<i>Fund Sources</i>	<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>2013 Request</i>	<i>2014 Estimate</i>	<i>2015 Estimate</i>	<i>2016 Estimate</i>	<i>2017 Estimate</i>
GO Bonds	\$0.000	\$0.550	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
Nonbudgeted	0.000	1.480	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	\$0.000	\$2.030	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

GO Bond Recommended Actions

1. Approve.