

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 796
Appropriations

(Carroll County Delegation)

Budget and Taxation

Carroll County - Public Facilities Bond

This bill authorizes the Carroll County Commissioners to issue up to \$29.8 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, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Carroll County receives up to \$29.8 million in bond proceeds. County debt service expenditures increase by an estimated \$2.1 million annually over a 20-year period.

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. Carroll County is one of six counties that still operates under the commission form of government.

Local Fiscal Effect: Since 2014, Carroll County has received authorization by the General Assembly to issue up to \$306.6 million in general obligation bonds for public facilities, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. **Exhibit 2** shows the planned capital projects in Carroll County for fiscal 2025.

Exhibit 1
Bond Authorizations for Carroll County
(\$ in Millions)

<u>Session</u>	<u>Chapter Number</u>	<u>Authorized Amount</u>
2014	Ch. 63	\$20.0
2015	Ch. 84	17.0
2016	Ch. 254	31.0
2017	Ch. 435	25.0
2018	Ch. 89	32.7
2019	Ch. 184	28.5
2020	Ch. 285	38.3
2021	Ch. 730	48.5
2023	Ch. 81	65.6
Total		\$306.6

Carroll County revenues increase by up to \$29.8 million from bond proceeds. Annual debt service costs for the bonds total approximately \$2.1 million. This estimate is based on a 3.37% interest rate and a 20-year term of maturity. To the extent that the bond issuance, interest rate, or term of maturity deviate from this assumption, debt service expenditures would adjust accordingly.

At the end of fiscal 2022, Carroll County had approximately \$280.8 million in total outstanding debt, which represents approximately 1.3% of the county’s assessable base and \$1,612 on a per capita basis. The county currently has an AAA credit rating from Standard & Poor’s, an AAA 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 in the [Local Government Overview](#) report. A copy of the 2024 report can be found on the Department of Legislative Services [website](#).

Exhibit 2
Carroll County Bond Authorization Request
Fiscal 2025

<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Project Amount</u>
Public Schools	
HVAC System Replacement – Mount Airy Elementary	\$1,133,000
HVAC System Replacement – Oklahoma Road Middle	1,768,000
Kindergarten and PreK Addition – Cranberry Station Elementary	1,784,000
Kindergarten and PreK Addition – Friendship Valley Elementary	6,942,000
Kindergarten and PreK Addition – Sandymount Elementary	3,133,000
Kindergarten and PreK Addition – Taneytown Elementary	2,180,000
Roof Replacement – Oklahoma Road Middle	3,948,000
Total Public Schools	\$20,888,000
Conservation and Open Space	
Agricultural Land – Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Program	\$1,333,300
Stormwater Facility Renovation	300,000
Watershed Assessment and Improvement (NPDES)	2,900,000
Total Conservation and Open Space	\$4,533,300
Public Works	
Pavement Management Program	\$602,000
Ramp and Sidewalk Upgrades	88,198
Small Drainage Structures	200,000
Storm Drain Rehabilitation	200,000
Brown Road Over Roaring Run	5,200
Gaither Road Over South Branch Patapsco	92,800
Hughes Shop Road Over Bear Branch Road	186,100
McKinstry’s Mill Road Over Sams Creek	128,500
Total Public Works	\$1,502,798
General Government	
County Building Systemic Renovations	\$1,500,000
Fire & EMS – Regional Water Supply	152,000
Generator Replacements	175,000
Maintenance Center Fuel Tank Replacement	1,000,000
Total General Government	\$2,827,000
Grand Total	\$29,751,098

EMS: Emergency medical services
HVAC: heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
NPDES: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Source: Carroll County Government

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 693 (Carroll County Senators) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Carroll County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2024
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