
By: Delegates McHale and T. Murphy

Requested: October 17, 1995

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 1996

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Baltimore City - Fort McHenry - Education and Visitors**
3 **Center**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$1,000,000,
5 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Patriots of Fort
6 McHenry, Inc. for certain acquisition, development, or improvement purposes;
7 providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to the requirement that the
8 grantee provide and expend a matching fund; requiring the grantee to grant and
9 convey a certain easement to the Maryland Historical Trust; and providing generally
10 for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the loan.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That:

13 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on
14 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Fort McHenry -
15 Education and Visitors Center Loan of 1996 in a total principal amount equal to the
16 lesser of (i) \$1,000,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance
17 with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and delivery of
18 State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of Public Works
19 and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State
20 Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

21 (2) The bonds to evidence this loan or installments of this loan may be sold as a
22 single issue or may be consolidated and sold as part of a single issue of bonds under §
23 8-122 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

24 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer and
25 first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and delivering the
26 bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then shall be credited on
27 the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the Board of Public Works,
28 for the following public purposes, including any applicable architects' and engineers' fees:
29 as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Patriots of Fort McHenry, Inc. for the planning
30 and design and construction of, and the provision of capital equipment for, an education
31 and visitors center at Fort McHenry.

1 (4) An annual State tax is imposed on all assessable property in the State in rate
2 and amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as and when due
3 and until paid in full. The principal shall be discharged within 15 years after the date of
4 issuance of the bonds.

5 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the
6 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a matching
7 fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either directly or
8 indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. No part of
9 the fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to
10 the effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching
11 fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works
12 shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1,
13 1998, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund
14 will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and
15 the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan
16 equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in
17 this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified
18 by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

19 (6) (a) Prior to the issuance of the bonds, the Board of Directors of the Patriots
20 of Fort McHenry, Inc. shall grant and convey to the Maryland Historical Trust a
21 perpetual preservation easement to the extent of its interest:

22 (i) On the land or such portion of the land acceptable to the Trust;
23 and

24 (ii) On the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the historic
25 structures.

26 (b) The easement must be in form and substance acceptable to the Trust
27 and the extent of the interest to be encumbered must be acceptable to the Trust.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 June 1, 1996.