
By: Delegates Fry and Harkins

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Harford County - Highland Commons**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$175,000, the
4 proceeds to be used as a grant to the County Government of Harford County for
5 certain acquisition, development, or improvement purposes; providing for
6 disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee
7 provide and expend a matching fund; and providing generally for the issuance and
8 sale of bonds evidencing the loan.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on
12 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Harford County
13 - Highland Commons Loan of 1996 in a total principal amount equal to the lesser of (i)
14 \$175,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance with Section
15 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and delivery of State
16 general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of Public Works and
17 issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State
18 Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

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

22 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer and
23 first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and delivering the
24 bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then shall be credited on
25 the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the Board of Public Works,
26 for the following public purposes, including any applicable architects' and engineers' fees:
27 as a grant to the County Government of Harford County (referred to hereafter in this Act
28 as "the grantee") for the installation of an elevator and a sprinkler system, improvement
29 and upgrading of utilities, equipping, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and expansion of
30 the Highland Commons Building in Harford County for use as a community center that
31 will include a senior center, library reading room, school for children with special needs,
32 and other community facilities for the citizens of Harford County.

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. The fund
9 may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the
10 effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or
11 what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall
12 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 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 June 1, 1996.