
By: Senators Ruben, Van Hollen, Teitelbaum, Frosh, Forehand, Roesser, and Hogan

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1996

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Montgomery County - Strathmore Hall Arts Center**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$250,000, the
4 proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Strathmore Hall
5 Foundation, Inc. for certain acquisition, development, or improvement purposes;
6 providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the
7 grantee provide and expend a matching fund; requiring the grantee to grant and
8 convey a certain easement to the Maryland Historical Trust; and providing generally
9 for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the loan.

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

12 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on
13 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Montgomery
14 County - Strathmore Hall Arts Center Loan of 1996 in a total principal amount equal to
15 the lesser of (i) \$250,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance
16 with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and delivery of
17 State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of Public Works
18 and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State
19 Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

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

23 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer and
24 first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and delivering the
25 bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then shall be credited on
26 the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the Board of Public Works,
27 for the following public purposes, including any applicable architects' and engineers' fees:
28 as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Strathmore Hall Foundation, Inc. (referred to
29 hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the completion of the expansion and renovation
30 of, and for the provision of capital equipment for, the Strathmore Hall Arts Center in
31 Montgomery County.

32 (4) An annual State tax is imposed on all assessable property in the State in rate
33 and amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds, as and when due

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1 and until paid in full. The principal shall be discharged within 15 years after the date of
2 issuance of the bonds.

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

18 (6) (a) Prior to the issuance of the bonds, the grantee shall grant and convey to
19 the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement to the extent of its
20 interest:

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

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

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

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