
By: Senators Blount, Della, Sfikas, and Young

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 1997

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Baltimore City - Project Liberty Ship**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$330,000, the
4 proceeds to be used as a grant to Project Liberty Ship for certain acquisition,
5 development, or improvement purposes; providing for disbursement of the loan
6 proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching
7 fund; providing generally for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the loan;
8 and requiring the grantee to grant and convey a historic easement to the Maryland
9 Historical Trust.

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 Baltimore City
14 - Project Liberty Ship Loan of 1997 in a total principal amount equal to the lesser of (i)
15 \$330,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance with Section
16 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and delivery of State
17 general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of Public Works and
18 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 Project Liberty Ship (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for
29 the repair, renovation, and preservation, including replacement of the rivets, of the
30 historic Liberty Ship, the John W. Brown, which is used as a memorial to merchant
31 marines and naval armed guards.

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, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to
8 the effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching
9 fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works
10 shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1,
11 1999, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund
12 will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and
13 the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan
14 equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in
15 this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified
16 by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

17 (6) (a) Prior to the issuance of the bonds, the grantee shall grant and convey to
18 the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement to the extent of its
19 interest on the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the historic vessel.

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

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 June 1, 1997.