
By: Senator Miller

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Creation of a State Debt - Prince George's County - Southern Maryland and Bethel
3 House Homeless Aid Program

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$150,000, the
5 proceeds to be used as a grant to the Union Bethel AME Church for certain
6 acquisition, development, or improvement purposes; providing for disbursement of
7 the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a
8 matching fund; prohibiting the grantee from using the proceeds of the bonds or the
9 matching funds for sectarian religious purposes; and providing generally for the
10 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 Prince George's
15 County - Southern Maryland and Bethel House Homeless Aid Program Loan of 1997 in
16 a total principal amount equal to the lesser of (i) \$150,000 or (ii) the amount of the
17 matching fund provided in accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be
18 evidenced by the issuance, sale, and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized
19 by a resolution of the Board of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in
20 accordance with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article
21 and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

22 (2) The bonds to evidence this loan or installments of this loan may be sold as a
23 single issue or may be consolidated and sold as part of a single issue of bonds under §
24 8-122 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

25 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer and
26 first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and delivering the
27 bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then shall be credited on
28 the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the Board of Public Works,
29 for the following public purposes, including any applicable architects' and engineers' fees:
30 as a grant to the Union Bethel AME Church (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the
31 grantee") for the repair, renovation, conversion, and reconstruction of, and for the
32 provision of capital equipment for, a building in Brandywine, Maryland, to be used as a
33 center for giving aid to the homeless in the area through the Southern Maryland and
34 Bethel House Homeless Aid Program.

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 1999, 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) No portion of the proceeds of the loan or any of the matching funds may be
20 used for the furtherance of sectarian religious instruction, or in connection with the
21 design, acquisition, or construction of any building used or to be used as a place of
22 sectarian religious worship or instruction, or in connection with any program or
23 department of divinity for any religious denomination. Upon the request of the Board of
24 Public Works, the grantee shall submit evidence satisfactory to the Board that none of the
25 proceeds of the loan or any matching funds have been or are being used for a purpose
26 prohibited by this Act.

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