

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Bond Bill

Senate Bill 250 (Senator Blount, *et al.*)  
Budget and Taxation

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Creation of a State Debt - Baltimore City - Project Liberty Ship  
(\$330,000)

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This bill provides \$330,000 in State bond proceeds as a grant to Project Liberty Ship to repair, renovate, and preserve, including replacement of the rivets, of the historic Liberty Ship, the John W. Brown, which is used as a memorial to merchant marines and naval armed guards.

The Project Liberty Ship must provide matching funds by June 1, 1999 and must grant and convey to the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement to the extent of its interest that must be acceptable to the trust.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** This \$330,000 bond authorization would be part of the total \$415 million general obligation debt authorization for FY 1998 as recommended by the Capital Debt Affordability Committee. State debt service costs on the \$415 million would be a maximum of \$43.9 million annually based on an interest rate of 4.90%.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal effect on small businesses as discussed below.

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Fiscal Analysis

**Small Business Effect:** This bond bill would be part of the annual State capital program. Each year, the State approves a program of general obligation bond funded capital spending. The fiscal 1998 funding totals \$415 million, an amount consistent with the level of funding authorized in prior years. The State's capital program contributes to the construction industry

in Maryland, which includes many small businesses. In 1995, the total value of non-residential building construction contracts in Maryland was \$1.8 billion. The fiscal 1998 capital program will continue the State's contribution to the construction industry in Maryland but because it is only \$15 million over the fiscal 1997 level, it will not add substantially to it.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Fiscal Services

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