

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Bond Bill

Senate Bill 723 (Senator Ruben, *et al.*)
Budget and Taxation

Creation of a State Debt - Montgomery County Agricultural Center
(\$495,000)

This bill provides \$495,000 in State bond proceeds as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc., to repair, renovate, and equip the Montgomery County Agricultural, Business, and Education Center on the grounds of the Agricultural Center in Gaithersburg.

The board must provide matching funds by June 1, 1999. The funds consist of a pledge of \$247,500 from the County Executive and County Council of Montgomery County and a pledge of \$247,500 from the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This \$495,000 bond authorization would be part of the total \$415 million general obligation debt authorization for fiscal 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: Montgomery County expenditures would increase by \$247,500.

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

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.

Information Source(s): Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 1997

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