

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Bond Bill

Senate Bill 265 (Senator Baker)
Budget and Taxation

**Creation of a State Debt - Kent County - Town of Chestertown Visitors' Center
(\$150,000)**

This bill provides \$150,000 in State bond proceeds as a grant to the Mayor and Council of the Town of Chestertown to plan, design, construct, and equip a building to be used as an information and visitors' center, to be located at the intersection of Route 213 and Cross Street. The building will also provide facilities for the Kent County Chamber of Commerce and public restrooms.

The Town of Chestertown must provide matching funds by June 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This \$150,000 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: Town of Chestertown grant revenues would increase by \$150,000 and expenditures would increase by at least \$300,000.

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 - March 7, 1997

nrd

Analysis by: Lori Caldwell-Valentine

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710