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By: **Harford County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: March 4, 1998

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Harford County - The Ripken Stadium**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$3,875,000,  
4 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Mayor and City Council of the City of  
5 Aberdeen for certain acquisition, development, or improvement purposes;  
6 providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that  
7 the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; and providing generally for  
8 the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the loan.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on  
12 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Harford  
13 County - The Ripken Stadium Loan of 1998 in a total principal amount equal to the  
14 lesser of (i) \$3,875,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance  
15 with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and  
16 delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of  
17 Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through  
18 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

19 (2) The bonds to evidence this loan or installments of this loan may be sold as  
20 a single issue or may be consolidated and sold as part of a single issue of bonds under  
21 § 8-122 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

22 (3) (a) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the  
23 Treasurer and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling,  
24 and delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and  
25 then shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by  
26 the Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable  
27 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Mayor and City Council of the City of  
28 Aberdeen (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the acquisition of land  
29 for a new minor league baseball stadium to be located in the City of Aberdeen in  
30 Harford County, and for the planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of  
31 the stadium, to be named The Ripken Stadium in honor of the Ripken family, so  
32 famous and respected in professional baseball and so long associated with the

1 Baltimore Orioles, with Cal Ripken, Sr. as manager and coach, Billy Ripken as second  
2 baseman, and Cal Ripken, Jr. as shortstop and third baseman.

3 (b) The site for the new minor league baseball stadium to be acquired  
4 with the proceeds of the bonds shall be a site other than the 30-acre site north of  
5 Beards Hill Road and south of Interstate Highway 95 in Aberdeen, known as the  
6 Jerry Stancill property.

7 (4) An annual State tax is imposed on all assessable property in the State in  
8 rate and amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds, as and  
9 when due and until paid in full. The principal shall be discharged within 15 years  
10 after the date of issuance of the bonds.

11 (5) (a) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for  
12 the purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the following shall occur:

13 (i) The grantee and the County Executive and County Council of  
14 Harford County shall provide and expend a matching fund. Of the total amount of the  
15 matching fund, the grantee is responsible for \$1,875,000 and the County Executive  
16 and County Council of Harford County are responsible for \$2,000,000. No part of the  
17 matching fund may consist of funds that have been acquired, either directly or  
18 indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. No part  
19 of the matching fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds  
20 expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount  
21 of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the  
22 Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final.  
23 The grantee and the County Executive and County Council of Harford County have  
24 until June 1, 1999, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that  
25 a matching fund will be provided.

26 (ii) The Mayor and City Council of Aberdeen shall have a contract  
27 with a minor league baseball team to play baseball at the new stadium.

28 (b) If satisfactory evidence of a matching fund and of a contract with a  
29 minor league baseball team is presented, the Board shall certify these facts and the  
30 amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan  
31 equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided  
32 in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund  
33 certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

34 (6) (a) The Mayor and City Council of Aberdeen may enter into an  
35 agreement with the Maryland Stadium Authority for the planning, design,  
36 construction, and capital equipping of the new minor league baseball stadium in the  
37 City of Aberdeen.

38 (b) Based on the agreement with the Mayor and City Council of  
39 Aberdeen for the new minor league baseball stadium in the City of Aberdeen, the  
40 Maryland Stadium Authority may enter into contracts, engage consultants, make  
41 recommendations, and take other actions related to the agreement.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 June 1, 1998.