
By: **Harford County Delegation**

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CHAPTER _____

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 \$500,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Mayor and City Council of
5 the City of Aberdeen for certain acquisition, development, or improvement
6 purposes; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a
7 requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; and
8 providing generally for 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~~ \$500,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in
15 accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale,
16 and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board
17 of 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

1 then shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by
2 the Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable
3 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Mayor and City Council of the City of
4 Aberdeen (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the acquisition of land
5 for a new minor league baseball stadium to be located in the City of Aberdeen in
6 Harford County, and for the planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of
7 the stadium, to be named The Ripken Stadium in honor of the Ripken family, so
8 famous and respected in professional baseball and so long associated with the
9 Baltimore Orioles, with Cal Ripken, Sr. as manager and coach, Billy Ripken as second
10 baseman, and Cal Ripken, Jr. as shortstop and third baseman.

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

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

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

21 (i) The grantee and the County Executive and County Council of
22 Harford County shall provide and expend a matching fund. Of the total amount of the
23 matching fund, the grantee is responsible for ~~\$1,875,000~~ \$250,000 and the County
24 Executive and County Council of Harford County are responsible for ~~\$2,000,000~~
25 \$250,000. No part of the matching fund may consist of funds that have been acquired,
26 either directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or
27 unappropriated. No part of the matching fund may consist of real property, in kind
28 contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any
29 dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify
30 as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the
31 Board's decision is final. The grantee and the County Executive and County Council
32 of Harford County have until June 1, 1999, to present evidence satisfactory to the
33 Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided.

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

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

1 (6) (a) ~~The Mayor and City Council of Aberdeen may enter into an~~
2 ~~agreement with the Maryland Stadium Authority for the planning, design,~~
3 ~~construction, and capital equipping of the new minor league baseball stadium in the~~
4 ~~City of Aberdeen.~~

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

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