

SENATE BILL 234

Unofficial Copy  
B2

1998 Regular Session  
(8r1161)

*ENROLLED BILL*  
*-- Budget and Taxation/Appropriations --*

Introduced by **Senators Craig, Fry, and Collins (Harford County Senators)**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

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 ~~\$3,000,000~~  
4 \$200,000, 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 a certain letter to the Board of Public  
8 Works and provide and expend a matching fund; and providing generally for the  
9 issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the loan.

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

12 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on  
13 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Harford  
14 County - The Ripken Stadium Loan of 1998 in a total principal amount equal to the  
15 lesser of (i) ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$200,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in  
16 accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale,

1 and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board  
2 of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through  
3 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

4 (2) The bonds to evidence this loan or installments of this loan may be sold as  
5 a single issue or may be consolidated and sold as part of a single issue of bonds under  
6 § 8-122 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

7 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer  
8 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and  
9 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then  
10 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the  
11 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable  
12 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Mayor and City Council of the City of  
13 Aberdeen (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the ~~planning, design,  
14 construction, and capital equipping~~ planning and design of a new baseball stadium in  
15 the City of Aberdeen in Harford County, to be named The Ripken Stadium in honor of  
16 the Ripken family, so famous and respected in professional baseball and so long  
17 associated with the Baltimore Orioles, with Cal Ripken, Sr. as manager and coach,  
18 Billy Ripken as second baseman, and Cal Ripken, Jr. as shortstop and third baseman.

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

23 (5) (a) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for  
24 the purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, ~~the grantee and the County Executive  
25 and County Council of Harford County shall~~ the following shall occur:

26 (i) The grantee and the County Executive and the County Council  
27 of Harford County shall provide a joint letter of commitment to the Board of Public  
28 Works stating the intent of the grantee to provide \$900,000 and the intent of the  
29 County Executive and County Council of Harford County to provide \$1,900,000 as a  
30 grant to the City of Aberdeen of which all funds shall be pledged toward the costs of  
31 constructing and equipping a new baseball stadium in the City of Aberdeen in  
32 Harford County, to be named The Ripken Stadium;

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

35 (iii) The grantee and the County Executive and the County Council  
36 of Harford County shall provide and expend a matching fund. Of the total amount of  
37 the matching fund, the grantee is responsible for \$1,000,000 \$100,000 and the County  
38 Executive and County Council of Harford County are responsible for \$2,000,000  
39 \$100,000. No part of the matching fund may consist of funds that have been acquired,  
40 either directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or  
41 unappropriated. No part of the matching fund may consist of real property, in kind  
42 contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any

1 dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify  
2 as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the  
3 Board's decision is final. The grantee and the County Executive and County Council  
4 of Harford County have until ~~September~~ October 1, 1998, to present evidence  
5 satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided.

6           (b)       If satisfactory evidence is presented that the requirements of  
7 paragraph (a) of this subsection have been met, the Board shall certify ~~this fact~~ these  
8 facts and the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of  
9 the loan equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes  
10 provided in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching  
11 fund certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further  
12 effect.

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