
By: **Senators Craig, Fry, and Collins (Harford County Senators)**
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 1998
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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 \$3,000,000,
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) \$3,000,000 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) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer
23 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and
24 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then
25 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the
26 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 planning, design,
29 construction, and capital equipping of a new baseball stadium in the City of Aberdeen
30 in Harford County, to be named The Ripken Stadium in honor of the Ripken family, so
31 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 (4) An annual State tax is imposed on all assessable property in the State in
4 rate and amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds, as and
5 when due and until paid in full. The principal shall be discharged within 15 years
6 after the date of issuance of the bonds.

7 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the
8 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee and the County Executive and
9 County Council of Harford County shall provide and expend a matching fund. Of the
10 total amount of the matching fund, the grantee is responsible for \$1,000,000 and the
11 County Executive and County Council of Harford County are responsible for
12 \$2,000,000. No part of the matching fund may consist of funds that have been
13 acquired, either directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated
14 or unappropriated. No part of the matching fund may consist of real property, in kind
15 contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any
16 dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify
17 as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the
18 Board's decision is final. The grantee and the County Executive and County Council
19 of Harford County have until September 1, 1998, to present evidence satisfactory to
20 the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If satisfactory
21 evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of the
22 matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the
23 amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act.
24 Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the
25 Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

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