

SENATE BILL 778

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B3

1998 Regular Session
8lr2744
CF 8lr2761

By: **Senator Colburn**

Introduced and read first time: March 6, 1998

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dorchester County - Eastern Shore Hospital Center Redevelopment Bonds**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing and empowering the County Commissioners of
4 Dorchester County, from time to time, to borrow not more than \$3,000,000 in
5 order to finance, with certain restrictions, certain economic redevelopment
6 projects in Dorchester County, as herein defined, and to effect such borrowing by
7 the issuance and sale at public or private sale of its general obligation bonds in
8 like par amount; empowering the County to fix and determine, by resolution,
9 the form, tenor, interest rate or rates or method of determining the same, terms,
10 conditions, maturities, and all other details incident to the issuance and sale of
11 the bonds; empowering the County to provide loans or grants or any
12 combination thereof, with any part or with all of the proceeds of the bonds, to
13 any person or entity for the purpose of financing any part or all of the costs of
14 such economic redevelopment projects; empowering the County to issue
15 refunding bonds for the purchase or redemption of bonds in advance of maturity;
16 empowering and directing the County to levy, impose, and collect, annually, ad
17 valorem taxes in rate and amount sufficient to provide funds for the payment of
18 the maturing principal of and interest on the bonds; providing that nothing in
19 this Act shall prevent the County from authorizing the issuance and sale of
20 bonds or refunding bonds, if the interest on or income derived from the bonds is
21 not exempt from State, local, or other taxation in the State; providing that
22 nothing in this Act shall prevent the County from authorizing the issuance and
23 sale of bonds the interest on which is not excludable from gross income for
24 federal income tax purposes; and relating generally to the issuance and sale of
25 such bonds.

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 MARYLAND, That, as used herein, the term "County" means that body politic and
28 corporate of the State of Maryland known as the County Commissioners of Dorchester
29 County, and the term "economic redevelopment project" means the cost of alteration,
30 construction, reconstruction, enlargement, expansion, extension, improvement,
31 rehabilitation, renovation, upgrading, equipping, repair, and the purchase and sale of
32 the Eastern Shore Hospital Center site in Cambridge in Dorchester County, for the
33 purpose of economic redevelopment, including related costs for architectural,
34 financial, legal, planning, or engineering services, any finance charges or interest

1 prior to or during such financings, and any other costs or expenditures incurred by
2 the County in connection therewith.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the County is hereby
4 authorized to finance any part or all of the costs of the economic redevelopment
5 project described in Section 1 of this Act, and to borrow money and incur indebtedness
6 for that purpose, at one time or from time to time, in an amount not exceeding, in the
7 aggregate, \$3,000,000 and to evidence such borrowing by the issuance and sale upon
8 its full faith and credit of general obligation bonds in like par amount, which may be
9 issued at one time or from time to time, in one or more groups or series, as the County
10 may determine.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the bonds shall be issued
12 pursuant to a resolution of the County, which shall describe generally the economic
13 redevelopment project for which the proceeds of the bond sale are intended and the
14 amount needed for those purposes. The County shall have and is hereby granted full
15 and complete authority and discretion in the resolution to fix and determine with
16 respect to the bonds of any issue: the designation, date of issue, denomination or
17 denominations, form or forms, and tenor of the bonds, which, without limitation, may
18 be issued in registered form within the meaning of Section 30 of Article 31 of the
19 Annotated Code of Maryland as effective from time to time; the rate or rates of
20 interest payable thereon, or the method of determining the same, which may include
21 a variable rate; the date or dates and amount or amounts of maturity, which need not
22 be in equal par amounts or in consecutive annual installments, provided only that no
23 bond of any issue shall mature later than 30 years from the date of its issue; the
24 manner of selling the bonds, which may be at either public or private sale, for such
25 price or prices as may be determined to be for the best interests of Dorchester County;
26 the manner of executing and sealing the bonds, which may be by facsimile; the terms
27 and conditions, if any, under which bonds may be tendered for payment or purchase
28 prior to their stated maturity; the terms or conditions, if any, under which bonds may
29 or shall be redeemed prior to their stated maturity; the place or places of payment of
30 the principal of and the interest on the bonds, which may be at any bank or trust
31 company within or without the State of Maryland; covenants relating to compliance
32 with applicable requirements of federal income tax law, including (without limitation)
33 covenants regarding the payment of rebate or penalties in lieu of rebate; covenants
34 relating to compliance with applicable requirements of federal or state securities
35 laws; and generally all matters incident to the terms, conditions, issuance, sale, and
36 delivery thereof.

37 The County may enter into agreements with agents, banks, fiduciaries,
38 insurers, or others for the purpose of enhancing the marketability of any security for
39 the bonds and for the purpose of securing any tender option that may be granted to
40 holders of the bonds, all as may be determined and presented in the aforesaid
41 resolution, which may (but need not) state as security for the performance by the
42 County of any monetary obligations under such agreements the same security given
43 by the County to bondholders for the performance by the County of its monetary
44 obligations under the bonds.

1 In case any officer whose signature appears on any bond ceases to be such
2 officer before delivery, the signature shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all
3 purposes as if the officer had remained in office until delivery. The bonds and their
4 issue and sale shall be exempt from the provisions of Sections 9, 10, and 11 of Article
5 31 of the Annotated Code of Maryland as effective from time to time.

6 If the County determines in the resolution to offer any of the bonds by
7 solicitation of competitive bids at public sale, the resolution shall fix the terms and
8 conditions of the public sale and shall adopt a form of notice of sale, which shall
9 outline the terms and conditions, and a form of advertisement, which shall be
10 published in one or more daily or weekly newspapers having a general circulation in
11 the County and which may also be published in one or more journals having a
12 circulation primarily among banks and investment bankers. At least one publication
13 of the advertisement shall be made not less than 10 days before the sale of the bonds.

14 Upon delivery of any bonds to the purchaser or purchasers, payment therefor
15 shall be made to the Treasurer of Dorchester County or such other official of
16 Dorchester County as may be designated to receive such payment in a resolution
17 passed by the County before such delivery.

18 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the net proceeds of the
19 sale of the bonds shall be used and applied exclusively and solely for the economic
20 redevelopment project in Dorchester County. If the net proceeds of the sale of any
21 issue of bonds exceeds the amount needed to finance the economic development
22 projects described in the resolution, the excess funds shall be applied to the payment
23 of the next principal maturity of the bonds or to the redemption of any part of the
24 bonds which have been made redeemable or to the purchase and cancellation of
25 bonds, as the County may determine to be in its best interest, unless the County shall
26 adopt a resolution allocating the excess funds to other capital projects.

27 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the County shall have
28 and is hereby granted full and complete authority and discretion and is hereby
29 empowered to provide loans or grants, or any combination thereof, upon any terms
30 and conditions as may be required by the County, in its discretion, of any part or all of
31 the proceeds of the bonds to any person or entity for the sole and exclusive purpose of
32 financing any part or all of the costs of the economic redevelopment project described
33 in Section 1 of this Act.

34 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the bonds hereby
35 authorized shall constitute, and they shall so recite, an irrevocable pledge of the full
36 faith and credit and unlimited taxing power of the County to the payment of the
37 maturing principal of and interest on the bonds as and when they become payable. In
38 each and every fiscal year that any of the bonds are outstanding, the County shall
39 levy or cause to be levied ad valorem taxes upon all the assessable property within the
40 corporate limits of the County in rate and amount sufficient to provide for or assure
41 the payment, when due, of the principal of and interest on all the bonds maturing in
42 each such fiscal year and, in the event the proceeds from the taxes so levied in any
43 such fiscal year shall prove inadequate for such payment, additional taxes shall be
44 levied in the succeeding fiscal year to make up any such deficiency. The County may

1 apply to the payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds issued hereunder
2 any funds received by it from the State of Maryland, the United States of America,
3 any agency or instrumentality thereof, or from any other source, if such funds are
4 granted for the purpose of assisting the County in financing the economic
5 redevelopment project to the extent of any such funds received or receivable in any
6 fiscal year, the taxes that are required to be levied under this Act may be reduced
7 proportionately or need not be levied.

8 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the County is further
9 authorized and empowered, at any time and from time to time, to issue its bonds in
10 the manner herein above described for the purpose of refunding, by payment at
11 maturity or upon purchase or redemption, any bonds issued hereunder. The validity
12 of any such refunding bonds shall in no way be dependent upon or related to the
13 validity or invalidity of the obligations so refunded. The powers herein granted with
14 respect to the issuance of bonds shall be applicable to the issuance of refunding bonds.
15 Such refunding bonds may be issued by the County for the purpose of providing it
16 with funds to pay any of its outstanding bonds issued hereunder at maturity, for the
17 purpose of providing it with funds to purchase in the open market any of its
18 outstanding bonds issued hereunder, prior to the maturity thereof, or for the purpose
19 of providing it with funds for the redemption prior to maturity of any outstanding
20 bonds issued hereunder which are, by their terms, redeemable, for the purpose of
21 providing it with funds to pay interest on any outstanding bonds issued hereunder
22 prior to their payment at maturity of purchase or redemption in advance of maturity,
23 or for the purpose of providing it with funds to pay any redemption or purchase
24 premium in connection with the refunding of any of its outstanding bonds issued
25 hereunder. The proceeds of the sale of any such refunding bonds shall be segregated
26 and set apart by the County as a separate trust fund to be used solely for the purpose
27 of paying the purchase or redemption prices of the bonds to be refunded.

28 SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the County may, prior to
29 the preparation of definitive bonds, issue interim certificates or temporary bonds,
30 with or without coupons, exchangeable for definitive bonds when such bonds have
31 been executed and are available for such delivery, provided, however, that any such
32 interim certificates or temporary bonds shall be issued in all respects subject to the
33 restrictions and requirements set forth in this Act. The County may, by appropriate
34 resolution, provide for the replacement of any bonds issued hereunder which shall
35 have become mutilated or lost or destroyed upon such conditions and after receiving
36 such indemnity as the County may require.

37 SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That nothing in this Act shall
38 prevent the County from authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds:

39 (a) on which the interest or income derived is not excludable from gross
40 income for federal income tax purposes; or

41 (b) which are subject to any State, county, municipal or other taxation
42 within the State of Maryland.

1 SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the authority to borrow
2 money, to issue bonds, and to provide loans and grants of the same that is conferred
3 on the County by this Act shall be deemed to provide an additional and alternative
4 authority for borrowing, loaning, and granting money and shall be regarded as
5 supplemental and additional to powers conferred upon the County by other laws and
6 shall not be regarded as in derogation of any power now existing; and all Acts of the
7 General Assembly of Maryland heretofore passed authorizing the County to borrow
8 money are hereby continued to the extent that the powers contained in such Acts have
9 not been exercised, and nothing contained in this Act may be construed to impair, in
10 any way, the validity of any bonds that may have been issued by the County under the
11 authority of any said Acts, and the validity of the bonds is hereby ratified, confirmed,
12 and approved. This Act, being necessary for the welfare of the inhabitants of
13 Dorchester County, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes hereof. All Acts
14 and parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed to
15 the extent of such inconsistency.

16 SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 June 1, 1998.