

SENATE BILL 473

Unofficial Copy  
B2

1999 Regular Session  
9r0837  
CF 9r1546

---

By: **Senators Della, Sfikas, Conway, Blount, Currie, and Hughes**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999  
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Baltimore City - National Research and Training**  
3 **Institute for the Blind**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$4,000,000,  
5 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the National  
6 Federation of the Blind, Inc. for certain development or improvement purposes;  
7 providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that  
8 the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; requiring the grantee to grant  
9 and convey a certain easement to the Maryland Historical Trust; and providing  
10 generally for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the loan.

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

13 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on  
14 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Baltimore  
15 City - National Research and Training Institute for the Blind Loan of 1999 in a total  
16 principal amount equal to the lesser of (i) \$4,000,000 or (ii) the amount of the  
17 matching fund provided in accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be  
18 evidenced by the issuance, sale, and delivery of State general obligation bonds  
19 authorized by a resolution of the Board of Public Works and issued, sold, and  
20 delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State Finance and  
21 Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

22 (2) The bonds to evidence this loan or installments of this loan may be sold as  
23 a single issue or may be consolidated and sold as part of a single issue of bonds under  
24 § 8-122 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

25 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer  
26 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and  
27 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then  
28 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the  
29 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable  
30 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Directors of the National  
31 Federation of the Blind, Inc. (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the  
32 repair, renovation, construction, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the National

1 Research and Training Institute for the Blind to be located at 1800 Johnson Street in  
2 Baltimore.

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 shall provide and expend a  
9 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either  
10 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or  
11 unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of real property, in kind  
12 contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any  
13 dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify  
14 as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the  
15 Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2001, to present evidence  
16 satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If  
17 satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of  
18 the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the  
19 amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act.  
20 Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the  
21 Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

22 (6) (a) Prior to the issuance of the bonds, the grantee shall grant and convey  
23 to the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement to the extent of  
24 its interest:

25 (i) On the land or such portion of the land acceptable to the Trust;  
26 and

27 (ii) On the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the historic  
28 structures.

29 (b) The easement must be in form and substance acceptable to the Trust  
30 and the extent of the interest to be encumbered must be acceptable to the Trust.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
32 June 1, 1999.