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By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2000

Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Howard County Conservancy**  
3 **Ho. Co. 11-00**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$375,000,  
5 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Howard  
6 County Conservancy, 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  
9 convey a certain easement to the Maryland Historic 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 Howard  
15 County Conservancy Loan of 2000 in a total principal amount equal to the lesser of (i)  
16 \$375,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance with Section  
17 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and delivery of State  
18 general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of Public Works and  
19 issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State  
20 Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

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

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

1 planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of an educational facility on the  
2 grounds of Mount Pleasant, a historic estate located in Howard County.

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 in kind contributions or funds  
12 expended prior to the effective date of this Act. The matching fund may consist of real  
13 property. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money  
14 or assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine  
15 the matter and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2002, to  
16 present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will  
17 be provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and  
18 the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan  
19 equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided  
20 in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund  
21 certified by the 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, 2000.