

HOUSE BILL 291

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B2

2000 Regular Session  
Olr1947  
CF 0lr1274

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By: **Delegates Proctor and Vallario**  
Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2000  
Assigned to: Appropriations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: April 1, 2000

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Prince George's County - Bethel Recreation**  
3 **Center**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed ~~\$750,000~~  
5 \$500,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of Union  
6 Bethel A.M.E. Church 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; prohibiting the use of the  
9 proceeds of the sale of the bonds or the matching fund for sectarian religious  
10 purposes; and providing generally for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing  
11 the loan.

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

14 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on  
15 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Prince  
16 George's County - Bethel Recreation Center Loan of 2000 in a total principal amount  
17 equal to the lesser of (i) ~~\$750,000~~ \$500,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund  
18 provided in accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the  
19 issuance, sale, and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a  
20 resolution of the Board of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance  
21 with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and  
22 Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

23 (2) The bonds to evidence this loan or installments of this loan may be sold as  
24 a single issue or may be consolidated and sold as part of a single issue of bonds under  
25 § 8-122 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

1 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer  
2 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and  
3 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then  
4 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the  
5 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable  
6 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Trustees of Union Bethel  
7 A.M.E. Church (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the planning,  
8 design, construction, and capital equipping of the Bethel Recreation Center for use as  
9 a gymnasium, cafe and bookstore, and community meeting area, to be located in  
10 Brandywine, Maryland.

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

15 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the  
16 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a  
17 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either  
18 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or  
19 unappropriated. The fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds  
20 expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount  
21 of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the  
22 Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final.  
23 The grantee has until June 1, 2002, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of  
24 Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is  
25 presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of the matching fund to  
26 the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the amount of the matching  
27 fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act. Any amount of the loan  
28 in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the Board of Public Works  
29 shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

30 (6) No portion of the proceeds of the loan or any of the matching funds may be  
31 used for the furtherance of sectarian religious instruction, or in connection with the  
32 design, acquisition, or construction of any building used or to be used as a place of  
33 sectarian religious worship or instruction, or in connection with any program or  
34 department of divinity for any religious denomination. Upon the request of the Board  
35 of Public Works, the grantee shall submit evidence satisfactory to the Board that none  
36 of the proceeds of the loan or any matching funds have been or are being used for a  
37 purpose prohibited by this Act.

38 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
39 June 1, 2000.

