

SENATE BILL 304

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2000 Regular Session
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CF 0lr2445

By: ~~Senators Sfikas and McFadden~~, **McFadden, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2000

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 29, 2000

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Baltimore City - Greektown Plateia**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed ~~\$800,000~~
4 \$500,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of St.
5 Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Inc. for certain development or improvement
6 purposes; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a
7 requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; prohibiting
8 the use of the proceeds of the loan or any of the matching fund for religious
9 purposes; and providing generally for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing
10 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 - Greektown Plateia Loan of 2000 in a total principal amount equal to the lesser
16 of (i) ~~\$800,000~~ \$500,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in
17 accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale,
18 and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board
19 of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through
20 8-124 of the State 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

1 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then
2 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the
3 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable
4 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Trustees of St. Nicholas
5 Greek Orthodox Church, Inc. (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for
6 the planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of a social and cultural
7 center for the promotion of the Greek American community, to be known as the
8 Greektown Plateia, to be located at 701-703 Ponca Street, Baltimore, Maryland
9 21224.

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

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

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

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

