

SENATE BILL 563

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2000 Regular Session
0lr0634
CF 0lr0635

By: **Harford County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Harford County - The Ripken Stadium Loan of 1998**

3 FOR the purpose of amending Chapter 158 of the Acts of the General Assembly of
4 1998, the Harford County - The Ripken Stadium Loan of 1998, to extend the
5 time by which the Mayor and City Council of the City of Aberdeen and the
6 County Executive and County Council of Harford County shall provide certain
7 evidence.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Chapter 158 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998
10 Section 1

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Chapter 158 of the Acts of 1998**

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on
17 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Harford
18 County - The Ripken Stadium Loan of 1998 in a total principal amount equal to the
19 lesser of (i) \$200,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance
20 with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and
21 delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of
22 Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through
23 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

24 (2) The bonds to evidence this loan or installments of this loan may be sold as
25 a single issue or may be consolidated and sold as part of a single issue of bonds under
26 § 8-122 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

27 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer
28 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and
29 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then

1 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the
2 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable
3 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Mayor and City Council of the City of
4 Aberdeen (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the planning and
5 design of a new baseball stadium in the City of Aberdeen in Harford County, to be
6 named The Ripken Stadium in honor of the Ripken family, so famous and respected in
7 professional baseball and so long associated with the Baltimore Orioles, with Cal
8 Ripken, Sr. as manager and coach, Billy Ripken as second baseman, and Cal Ripken,
9 Jr. as shortstop and third baseman.

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) (a) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for
15 the purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the following shall occur:

16 (i) The grantee and the County Executive and the County Council
17 of Harford County shall provide a joint letter of commitment to the Board of Public
18 Works stating the intent of the grantee to provide \$900,000 and the intent of the
19 County Executive and County Council of Harford County to provide \$1,900,000 as a
20 grant to the City of Aberdeen of which all funds shall be pledged toward the costs of
21 constructing and equipping a new baseball stadium in the City of Aberdeen in
22 Harford County, to be named The Ripken Stadium;

23 (ii) The Mayor and City Council of Aberdeen shall have a contract
24 with a minor league baseball team to play baseball at the new stadium; and

25 (iii) The grantee and the County Executive and the County Council
26 of Harford County shall provide and expend a matching fund. Of the total amount of
27 the matching fund, the grantee is responsible for \$100,000 and the County Executive
28 and County Council of Harford County are responsible for \$100,000. No part of the
29 matching fund may consist of funds that have been acquired, either directly or
30 indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. No part
31 of the matching fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds
32 expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount
33 of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the
34 Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final.
35 The grantee and the County Executive and County Council of Harford County have
36 until [October 1, 1998] JUNE 1, 2002, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of
37 Public Works that a matching fund will be provided.

38 (b) If satisfactory evidence is presented that the requirements of
39 paragraph (a) of this subsection have been met, the Board shall certify these facts and
40 the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan
41 equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided
42 in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund
43 certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

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