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By: Frederick County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2001 Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments House action: Adopted Read second time: March 17, 2001

CHAPTER_____

1 AN ACT concerning

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Frederick County - Public Facilities Bonds

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing and empowering the County Commissioners of Frederick County, from time to time, to borrow not more than \$43,000,000 in 4 5 order to finance the cost of certain public facilities in Frederick County, as herein defined, and to effect such borrowing by the issuance and sale at public or 6 private sale of its general obligation bonds in like par amount; empowering the 7 County to fix and determine, by resolution, the form, tenor, interest rate or rates 8 9 or method of determining the same, terms, conditions, maturities, and all other details incident to the issuance and sale of the bonds; empowering the County to 10 11 issue refunding bonds for the purchase or redemption of bonds in advance of 12 maturity; empowering and directing the County to levy, impose, and collect, 13 annually, ad valorem taxes in rate and amount sufficient to provide funds for 14 the payment of the maturing principal of and interest on the bonds; exempting 15 the bonds and refunding bonds and the interest thereon and any income derived 16 therefrom from all State, county, municipal, and other taxation in the State of Maryland; providing that nothing in this Act shall prevent the County from 17 18 authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds the interest on which is not 19 excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes; providing that such borrowing may be undertaken by Frederick County in the form of 20 installment purchase obligations executed and delivered by Frederick County 21 for the purpose of acquiring agricultural land and woodland preservation 22 23 easements; and generally relating to the issuance and sale of the bonds by 24 Frederick County.

25 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

26 MARYLAND, That, as used herein, the term "County" means the body politic and

27 corporate of the State of Maryland known as the County Commissioners of Frederick

1 County, and the term "public facilities" means the cost of construction and

2 reconstruction of capital projects, including but not limited to landfill projects, public

3 schools, roads, bridges, flood control projects, solid waste facilities, water and leachate

4 treatment facilities, libraries, easements or similar or related rights in land that

5 restrict the use of agricultural land or woodland to maintain the character of the land

6 <u>as agricultural land or woodland</u>, and communication systems, including the

7 development of property, the acquisition and installation of equipment and

8 furnishings, together with any related architectural, financial, legal, planning, or

9 engineering services.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the County is hereby
authorized to finance any part or all of the costs of the public facilities described in
Section 1 of this Act, and to borrow money and incur indebtedness for that purpose, at
one time or from time to time, in an amount not exceeding, in the aggregate,
\$43,000,000 and to evidence such borrowing by the issuance and sale upon its full
faith and credit of general obligation bonds in like par amount, which may be issued
at one time or from time to time, in one or more groups or series, as the County may
determine.

19 pursuant to a resolution of the County, which shall describe generally the public 20 facilities for which the proceeds of the bond sale are intended and the amount needed for those purposes. The County shall have and is hereby granted full and complete 21 authority and discretion in the resolution to fix and determine with respect to the 22 bonds of any issue: the designation, date of issue, denomination or denominations, 23 form or forms, and tenor of the bonds which, without limitation, may be issued in 24 25 registered form within the meaning of Section 30 of Article 31 of the Annotated Code 26 of Maryland, as amended; the rate or rates of interest payable thereon, or the method 27 of determining the same, which may include a variable rate; the date or dates and 28 amount or amounts of maturity, which need not be in equal par amounts or in 29 consecutive annual installments, provided only that no bond of any issue shall mature 30 later than 30 years from the date of its issue; the manner of selling the bonds, which 31 may be at either public or private sale, for such price or prices as may be determined 32 to be for the best interests of Frederick County; the manner of executing and sealing the bonds, which may be by facsimile; the terms and conditions, if any, under which 33 bonds may be tendered for payment or purchase prior to their stated maturity; the 34 35 terms or conditions, if any, under which bonds may or shall be redeemed prior to their 36 stated maturity; the place or places of payment of the principal of and the interest on the bonds, which may be at any bank or trust company within or without the State of 37 38 Maryland; covenants relating to compliance with applicable requirements of federal income tax law, including covenants regarding the payment of rebate or penalties in 39 40 lieu of rebate; covenants relating to compliance with applicable requirements of 41 federal or state securities laws; and generally all matters incident to the terms,

42 conditions, issuance, sale, and delivery thereof.

The County may enter into agreements with agents, banks, fiduciaries,insurers, or others for the purpose of enhancing the marketability of any security for

45 the bonds and for the purpose of securing any tender option that may be granted to

46 holders of the bonds.

1 In case any officer whose signature appears on any bond or on any coupon

2 attached thereto ceases to be such officer before the delivery thereof, such signature

3 shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes as if he had remained in

4 office until such delivery. The bonds and the issuance and sale thereof shall be exempt

5 from the provisions of Sections 2C, 9, 10, and 11 of Article 31 of the Annotated Code of6 Maryland.

7 If the County determines in the resolution to offer any of the bonds by 8 solicitation of competitive bids at public sale, the resolution shall fix the terms and 9 conditions of the public sale and shall adopt a form of notice of sale, which shall 10 outline the terms and conditions, and a form of advertisement, which shall be 11 published in one or more daily or weekly newspapers having a general circulation in 12 the County and which may also be published in one or more journals having a 13 circulation primarily among banks and investment bankers. At least one publication 14 of the advertisement shall be made not less than 10 days before the sale of the bonds.

Upon delivery of any bonds to the purchaser or purchasers, payment therefor
shall be made to the Treasurer of Frederick County or such other official of Frederick
County as may be designated to receive such payment in a resolution passed by the
County Commissioner of Frederick County before delivery. For purposes of issuance
and sale, bonds authorized hereunder may be consolidated into a single issue with
any other bonds authorized to be issued by the County.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the net proceeds of the sale of bonds shall be used and applied exclusively and solely for the public facilities for which the bonds are sold. If the net proceeds of the sale of any issue of bonds exceeds the amount needed to finance the public facilities described in the resolution, the excess funds so borrowed and not expended shall be applied to the payment of the next principal maturity of the bonds or to the redemption of any part of the bonds which have been made redeemable or to the purchase and cancellation of bonds, unless the County shall adopt a resolution allocating the excess funds to the costs of other public facilities.

30 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the bonds hereby authorized shall constitute, and they shall so recite, an irrevocable pledge of the full 31 faith and credit and unlimited taxing power of the County to the payment of the 32 33 maturing principal of and interest on the bonds as and when they become payable. In 34 each and every fiscal year that any of the bonds are outstanding, the County shall 35 levy or cause to be levied ad valorem taxes upon all the assessable property within the 36 corporate limits of Frederick County in rate and amount sufficient to provide for or 37 assure the payment, when due, of the principal of and interest on all the bonds 38 maturing in each such fiscal year and, in the event the proceeds from the taxes so 39 levied in any such fiscal year shall prove inadequate for such payment, additional 40 taxes shall be levied in the succeeding fiscal year to make up any such deficiency. The 41 County may apply to the payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds issued 42 hereunder any funds received by it from the State of Maryland, the United States of 43 America, any agency or instrumentality thereof, or from any other source. If such 44 funds are granted for the purpose of assisting the County in financing the

45 construction, improvement, development, or renovation of the public facilities defined

1 in this Act and, to the extent of any such funds received or receivable in any fiscal2 year, the taxes that might otherwise be levied under this Act, may be reduced or need3 not be levied.

4 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the County is hereby 5 further authorized and empowered, at any time and from time to time, to issue its 6 bonds in the manner herein above described for the purpose of refunding, by payment at maturity or upon purchase or redemption, any bonds issued hereunder. The 7 8 validity of any such refunding bonds shall in no way be dependent upon or related to 9 the validity or invalidity of the obligations so refunded. The powers herein granted 10 with respect to the issuance of bonds shall be applicable to the issuance of refunding bonds. Such refunding bonds may be issued by the County for the purpose of 11 providing it with funds to pay any of its outstanding bonds issued hereunder at 12 13 maturity, for the purpose of providing it with funds to purchase in the open market 14 any of its outstanding bonds issued hereunder, prior to the maturity thereof, or for the 15 purpose of providing it with funds for the redemption prior to maturity of any 16 outstanding bonds issued hereunder which are, by their terms, redeemable, for the 17 purpose of providing it with funds to pay interest on any outstanding bonds issued 18 hereunder prior to their payment at maturity of purchase or redemption in advance of 19 maturity, or for the purpose of providing it with funds to pay any redemption or 20 purchase premium in connection with the refunding of any of its outstanding bonds 21 issued hereunder. The proceeds of the sale of any such refunding bonds shall be 22 segregated and set apart by the County as a separate trust fund to be used solely for 23 the purpose of paying the purchase or redemption prices of the bonds to be refunded.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the County may, prior to the preparation of definitive bonds, issue interim certificates or temporary bonds, with or without coupons, exchangeable for definitive bonds when such bonds have been executed and are available for such delivery, provided, however, that any such interim certificates or temporary bonds shall be issued in all respects subject to the restrictions and requirements set forth in this Act. The County may, by appropriate resolution, provide for the replacement of any bonds issued hereunder which shall have become mutilated or lost or destroyed upon such conditions and after receiving such indemnity as the County may require.

SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any and all obligations
issued pursuant to the authority of this Act, their transfer, the interest payable
thereon, and any income derived therefrom in the hands of the holders thereof from
time to time (including any profit made in the sale thereof) shall be and are hereby
declared to be at all times exempt from State, county, municipal, or other taxation of
every kind and nature whatsoever within the State of Maryland.

39 Nothing in this Act shall prevent the County from authorizing the issuance and 40 sale of bonds the interest on which is not excludable from gross income for federal 41 income tax purposes.

42 SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the authority to borrow 43 money and issue bonds conferred on the County by this Act shall be deemed to provide 44 additional, alternative, and supplemental authority for borrowing money and shall be

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1 regarded as supplemental and additional to powers conferred upon the County by

2 other laws and shall not be regarded as in derogation of any power now existing; and

3 all Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland heretofore passed authorizing the

4 County to borrow money are hereby continued to the extent that the powers contained

5 in such Acts have not been exercised, and nothing contained in this Act may be

 $6\;$ construed to impair, in any way, the validity of any bonds that may have been issued

7 by the County under the authority of any said Acts, and the validity of the bonds is

8 hereby ratified, confirmed, and approved. This Act, being necessary for the welfare of

9 the inhabitants of Frederick County, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes

10 hereof. All Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are 11 hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

12 SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the borrowing

13 authorized by this Act may also be undertaken by the County in the form of

14 installment purchase obligations executed and delivered by the County for the

15 purpose of acquiring easements or similar or related rights in land that restrict the

16 use of agricultural land or woodland to maintain the character of the land as

17 agricultural land or woodland. The form of installment purchase obligations, the

18 manner of accomplishing the acquisition of easements, which may be by the direct

19 exchange of installment purchase obligations for easement, and all matters incident

20 to the execution and delivery of the installment purchase obligations and acquisition

21 of the easements by the County shall be determined in the resolution. Except where

22 the provisions of this Act would be inapplicable to installment purchase obligations,

23 the term "bonds" used in this Act shall include installment purchase obligations and

24 matters pertaining to the bonds under this Act, such as the security for the payment

25 of the bonds, the exemption of the bonds from State, county, municipal, or other

26 taxation, and authorization to issue refunding bonds and the limitation on the

27 aggregate principal amount of bonds authorized for issuance, shall be applicable to

28 installment purchase obligations.

29 SECTION 10. <u>11.</u> AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take 30 effect June 1, 2001.