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By: **Delegates Conroy, Pitkin, and Hubbard**  
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2001  
Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Creation of a State Debt - Prince George's County - Ebenezer Community**  
3                                   **Life Center**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$1,000,000,  
5 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of Ebenezer  
6 Community Development Corporation for certain development or improvement  
7 purposes; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a  
8 requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; prohibiting  
9 the use of the proceeds of the sale of the bonds and the matching fund for  
10 religious purposes; etc.

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 Prince  
15 George's County - Ebenezer Community Life Center Loan of 2001 in a total principal  
16 amount equal to the lesser of (i) \$1,000,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund  
17 provided in accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the  
18 issuance, sale, and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a  
19 resolution of the Board of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance  
20 with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and  
21 Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

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

25       (3)       The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer  
26 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and  
27 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then  
28 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the  
29 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable  
30 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Directors of Ebenezer  
31 Community Development Corporation (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the  
32 grantee") for the design, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of two

1 existing buildings on Whitfield Chapel Road in Lanham, and the design and  
2 construction of a new wing, to serve as a mixed educational, administrative, and  
3 fellowship complex.

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

8 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the  
9 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a  
10 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either  
11 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or  
12 unappropriated. The fund may consist of real property and funds expended prior to  
13 the effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching  
14 fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public  
15 Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has  
16 until June 1, 2003, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that  
17 a matching fund will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board  
18 shall certify this fact and the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and  
19 the proceeds of the loan equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended  
20 for the purposes provided in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount  
21 of the matching fund certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be  
22 of no further effect.

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

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
32 June 1, 2001.