

SENATE BILL 177

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B2

2001 Regular Session  
11r0990  
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By: **Senators Blount, Bromwell, Della, Dyson, and Ferguson**  
Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2001  
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Baltimore City - Project Liberty Ship**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$750,000,  
4 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of Project Liberty  
5 Ship Baltimore, Inc. for certain development or improvement purposes;  
6 providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that  
7 the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; and providing generally for  
8 the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the loan.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on  
12 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Baltimore  
13 City - Project Liberty Ship Loan of 2001 in a total principal amount equal to the  
14 lesser of (i) \$750,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance  
15 with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and  
16 delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of  
17 Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through  
18 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

19 (2) The bonds to evidence this loan or installments of this loan may be sold as  
20 a single issue or may be consolidated and sold as part of a single issue of bonds under  
21 § 8-122 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

22 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer  
23 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and  
24 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then  
25 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the  
26 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable  
27 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Directors of Project Liberty  
28 Ship Baltimore, Inc. (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the  
29 construction of a 500-foot concrete pier that will be the permanent docking site of the  
30 historic Maryland-built Liberty Ship, the John W. Brown, in the Patapsco River at  
31 1437 Key Highway, Baltimore, Maryland.

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

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

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