

SENATE BILL 640

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B2

2002 Regular Session
2lr2602
CF 2lr1688

By: **Senator Baker**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Queen Anne's County - Historic Christ Church**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$200,000,
4 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's
5 County for certain development or improvement purposes; providing for
6 disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee
7 provide and expend a matching fund; requiring the grantee to grant and convey
8 a certain easement to the Maryland Historical Trust; prohibiting the use of the
9 proceeds of the sale of the bonds or the matching fund for sectarian religious
10 purposes; and providing generally for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing
11 the loan.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on
15 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Queen Anne's
16 County - Historic Christ Church Loan of 2002 in a total principal amount equal to the
17 lesser of (i) \$200,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance
18 with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and
19 delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of
20 Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through
21 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and 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 County Commissioners of Queen
31 Anne's County (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the acquisition of
32 land and property currently owned by Christ Church Parish of the Episcopal Diocese,

1 located on the span of East Main Street 117-123 in Stevensville, Queen Anne's
2 County.

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

7 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the
8 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a
9 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either
10 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or
11 unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of real property, in kind
12 contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any
13 dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify
14 as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the
15 Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2004, to present evidence
16 satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If
17 satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of
18 the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the
19 amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act.
20 Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the
21 Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

22 (6) (a) Prior to the issuance of the bonds, the grantee shall grant and convey
23 to the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement to the extent of
24 its interest:

25 (i) On the land or such portion of the land acceptable to the Trust;
26 and

27 (ii) On the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the historic
28 structures.

29 (b) If the grantee or beneficiary of the grant holds a lease on the land
30 and structures, the Trust may accept an easement on the leasehold interest.

31 (c) The easement must be in form and substance acceptable to the Trust
32 and any liens or encumbrances against the land or the structures must be acceptable
33 to the Trust.

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

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 June 1, 2002.