

SENATE BILL 257

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SB 250/02 - B&T

2003 Regular Session
3lr0386

By: **Senators Green and Exum**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2003

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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; and providing generally for the sale and issuance of bonds
11 evidencing 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 Prince
16 George's County - Ebenezer Community Life Center Loan of 2003 in a total principal
17 amount equal to the lesser of (i) \$1,000,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund
18 provided in accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the
19 issuance, sale, and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a
20 resolution of the Board of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance
21 with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and
22 Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

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

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

1 grantee") for the renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of two existing
2 buildings on Whitfield Chapel Road in Lanham, and the construction and capital
3 equipping of a new wing, to serve as a mixed educational, administrative, and
4 fellowship complex.

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

9 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the
10 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a
11 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either
12 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or
13 unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of in kind contributions. The fund
14 may consist of real property and funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act.
15 In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets
16 may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter
17 and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2005, to present
18 evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be
19 provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and
20 the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan
21 equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided
22 in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund
23 certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

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

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 June 1, 2003.