

SENATE BILL 756

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B2

2003 Regular Session
3lr2644
CF 3lr2653

By: **Senator Jones**

Introduced and read first time: March 3, 2003

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Baltimore City - Bethel A.M.E. Museum and Cyber**
3 **Community Center**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$1,600,000,
5 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of Bethel Outreach
6 Center, Inc. for certain development or improvement purposes; providing for
7 disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee
8 provide and expend a matching fund; requiring the grantee to grant and convey
9 a certain easement to the Maryland Historical Trust; prohibiting the use of the
10 proceeds of the loan or the matching fund for sectarian religious purposes; and
11 providing generally for the issuance and sale of bonds 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 Baltimore
16 City - Bethel A.M.E. Museum and Cyber Community Center Loan of 2003 in a total
17 principal amount equal to the lesser of (i) \$1,600,000 or (ii) the amount of the
18 matching fund provided in accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be
19 evidenced by the issuance, sale, and delivery of State general obligation bonds
20 authorized by a resolution of the Board of Public Works and issued, sold, and
21 delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through 8-124 of the State Finance and
22 Procurement Article and 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 Bethel Outreach
32 Center, Inc. (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the planning,

1 design, construction, and capital equipping of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal
2 Museum and Cyber Community Center to show a history of the African Methodist
3 Episcopal Church and to offer programs on technology, computers, job preparation,
4 career advancement, and life skills, located in Baltimore City.

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. The fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds
14 expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount
15 of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the
16 Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final.
17 The grantee has until June 1, 2005, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of
18 Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is
19 presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of the matching fund to
20 the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the amount of the matching
21 fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act. Any amount of the loan
22 in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the Board of Public Works
23 shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

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

27 (i) On the land or such portion of the land acceptable to the Trust;
28 and

29 (ii) On the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the historic
30 structures.

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

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

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

1 of the proceeds of the loan or any matching funds have been or are being used for a
2 purpose prohibited by this Act.

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