

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 642

(Carroll County Senators)

Budget and Taxation

Appropriations

Carroll County - Public Facilities Bonds

This bill authorizes the County Commissioners of Carroll County to issue up to \$23 million in general obligation bonds for the construction, improvement, and development of public facilities, including water and sewer projects and fire and emergency-related equipment, in Carroll County. The date of maturity cannot exceed 30 years.

The bill is effective June 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Carroll County would receive up to \$23 million in bond proceeds for capital projects. County debt service expenditures would increase by an estimated \$2.1 million annually for the next 15 years.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Background: Carroll County advises that the bond proceeds would be used for projects in the county's Capital Improvement Plan, including \$5.5 million for county government facilities, \$6.2 million for roads and bridges, \$7.0 million for fire and rescue equipment and facilities, and \$0.5 million for water and sewer projects.

Local Fiscal Effect: Carroll County revenues could increase by up to \$23 million due to the bond proceeds. Annual debt service costs for the bonds would total approximately \$2.1 million. This estimate is based on a 4.45% annual interest rate over 15 years. At the end of fiscal 2002, Carroll County had approximately \$219 million in outstanding debt which represents approximately 2.1% of the county's assessable base. The statewide average is approximately 3.1%. The county currently has an AA credit rating from Standards and Poor's, and an Aa2 credit rating from Moody's Investors Service.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Carroll County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2003
ncs/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 21, 2003

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