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By: **Howard County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2005

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Howard County - Blandair Mansion**  
3 **Ho. Co. 10-05**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$500,000,  
5 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the County Executive and County Council  
6 of Howard County for certain development or improvement purposes; providing  
7 for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee  
8 provide and expend a matching fund; establishing a deadline for the  
9 encumbrance or expenditure of the loan proceeds; requiring the grantee to grant  
10 and convey a certain easement to the Maryland Historical Trust; and providing  
11 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 Howard  
16 County - Blandair Mansion Loan of 2005 in a total principal amount equal to the  
17 lesser of (i) \$500,000 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 Executive and County  
31 Council of Howard County (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for

1 renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the historic manor house known  
2 as Blandair Mansion and its outbuildings, located on 300 acres on Maryland Route  
3 175 in Columbia.

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

8 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the  
9 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a  
10 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either  
11 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or  
12 unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of real property, in kind  
13 contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any  
14 dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify  
15 as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the  
16 Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2007, to present evidence  
17 satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If  
18 satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of  
19 the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the  
20 amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act.  
21 Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the  
22 Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

23 (6) The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board of  
24 Public Works for the purposes provided in this Act no later than June 1, 2012. If any  
25 funds authorized by this Act remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1,  
26 2012, the amount of the unencumbered or unexpended authorization shall be  
27 canceled and be of no further effect. If bonds have been issued for the loan, the  
28 amount of unexpended or unencumbered bond proceeds shall be disposed of as  
29 provided in § 8-129 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

30 (7) (a) Prior to the issuance of the bonds, the grantee shall grant and convey  
31 to the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement to the extent of  
32 its interest:

33 (i) On the land or such portion of the land acceptable to the Trust;  
34 and

35 (ii) On the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the historic  
36 structures.

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

39 (c) The easement must be in form and substance acceptable to the Trust  
40 and any liens or encumbrances against the land or the structures must be acceptable  
41 to the Trust.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 June 1, 2005.