
By: **Delegates O'Donnell, Kullen, Proctor, and Vallario**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt - Calvert County - Project ECHO Homeless Shelter**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$300,000,
4 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of Project ECHO,
5 Inc. 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; prohibiting the use of the loan proceeds
8 and matching fund for sectarian religious purposes; establishing a deadline for
9 the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan proceeds; and providing generally
10 for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the loan.

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

13 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on
14 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Calvert
15 County - Project ECHO Homeless Shelter Loan of 2006 in a total principal amount
16 equal to the lesser of (i) \$300,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in
17 accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale,
18 and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board
19 of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8-117 through
20 8-124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

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

24 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer
25 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and
26 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then
27 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the
28 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable
29 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Directors of Project ECHO,
30 Inc. (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the demolition of an existing
31 homeless shelter, and the planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of
32 ECHO House, located in Prince Frederick.

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

5 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the
6 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a
7 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either
8 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or
9 unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of real property or funds expended
10 prior to the effective date of this Act. The fund may consist of in kind contributions. In
11 case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets
12 may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter
13 and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2008, to present
14 evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be
15 provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and
16 the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan
17 equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided
18 in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund
19 certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

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

28 (7) The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board of
29 Public Works for the purposes provided in this Act no later than June 1, 2013. If any
30 funds authorized by this Act remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1,
31 2013, the amount of the unencumbered or unexpended authorization shall be
32 canceled and be of no further effect. If bonds have been issued for the loan, the
33 amount of unexpended or unencumbered bond proceeds shall be disposed of as
34 provided in § 8-129 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
36 effect June 1, 2006.