

HOUSE BILL 814

B2

71r1744

By: **Delegates Conway, Cane, DeBoy, Eckardt, Elmore, Haddaway, Jones, Mathias, Sossi, and Walkup**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt – Caroline County – The Benedictine School**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$750,000,
4 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Benedictine
5 School Foundation, Inc. for certain development or improvement purposes;
6 providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that
7 the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; prohibiting the use of the loan
8 proceeds or matching fund for sectarian religious purposes; establishing a
9 deadline for the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan proceeds; and providing
10 generally 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 Caroline
15 County – The Benedictine School Loan of 2007 in a total principal amount equal to the
16 lesser of (i) \$750,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance
17 with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and
18 delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of
19 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.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

4 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer
5 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and
6 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then
7 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the
8 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable
9 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Benedictine
10 School Foundation, Inc. (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the
11 planning, design, repair, renovation, and capital equipping of the fire protection and
12 HVAC systems and infrastructure of the Benedictine School, located in Ridgely.

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

17 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the
18 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a
19 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either
20 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or
21 unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of real property, or in kind
22 contributions. The fund may consist of funds expended prior to the effective date of
23 this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money
24 or assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine
25 the matter and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2009, to
26 present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will
27 be provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and
28 the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan
29 equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided
30 in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund
31 certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

32 (6) No portion of the proceeds of the loan or any of the matching funds may
33 be used for the furtherance of sectarian religious instruction, or in connection with the
34 design, acquisition, or construction of any building used or to be used as a place of
35 sectarian religious worship or instruction, or in connection with any program or
36 department of divinity for any religious denomination. Upon the request of the Board
37 of Public Works, the grantee shall submit evidence satisfactory to the Board that none
38 of the proceeds of the loan or any matching funds have been or are being used for a
39 purpose prohibited by this Act.

1 (7) The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board
2 of Public Works for the purposes provided in this Act no later than June 1, 2014. If any
3 funds authorized by this Act remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1, 2014,
4 the amount of the unencumbered or unexpended authorization shall be canceled and
5 be of no further effect. If bonds have been issued for the loan, the amount of
6 unexpended or unencumbered bond proceeds shall be disposed of as provided in §
7 8–129 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 June 1, 2007.