

# SENATE BILL 24

B2

71r1029

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By: **Senator Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt – Baltimore City – Restoration Gardens**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$250,000,  
4 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of Empire Homes of  
5 Maryland, 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; requiring the grantee to grant and convey  
8 a certain easement to the Maryland Historical Trust; 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 Baltimore  
15 City – Restoration Gardens Loan of 2007 in a total principal amount equal to the  
16 lesser of (i) \$250,000 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.

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (3)     The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer  
2 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and  
3 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then  
4 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the  
5 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable  
6 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Directors of Empire Homes of  
7 Maryland, Inc. (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the construction  
8 of a youth supportive housing facility, located in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

31                           (i)     On the land or such portion of the land acceptable to the  
32 Trust; and

33                           (ii)    On the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the  
34 historic structures.

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

1           (c)     The easement must be in form and substance acceptable to the  
2 Trust and any liens or encumbrances against the land or the structures must be  
3 acceptable to the Trust.

4           (7)     The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board  
5 of Public Works for the purposes provided in this Act no later than June 1, 2014. If any  
6 funds authorized by this Act remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1, 2014,  
7 the amount of the unencumbered or unexpended authorization shall be canceled and  
8 be of no further effect. If bonds have been issued for the loan, the amount of  
9 unexpended or unencumbered bond proceeds shall be disposed of as provided in §  
10 8-129 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

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