

SENATE BILL 53

B2

71r0460
CF HB 32

By: **Senator Della**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt – Baltimore City – Fort McHenry Visitors Center**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$600,000,
4 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Patriots of
5 Fort McHenry/Living Classrooms, Inc. for certain development or improvement
6 purposes; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a
7 requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; establishing
8 a deadline for the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan proceeds; and
9 providing generally for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the loan.

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

12 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on
13 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Baltimore
14 City – Fort McHenry Visitors Center Loan of 2007 in a total principal amount equal to
15 the lesser of (i) \$600,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in
16 accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale,
17 and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board
18 of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8–117 through
19 8–124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

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

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 Board of Trustees of the Patriots of Fort
7 McHenry/Living Classrooms, Inc. (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for
8 the planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of a visitors center at Fort
9 McHenry, located in Baltimore City.

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

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

29 (6) The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board
30 of Public Works for the purposes provided in this Act no later than June 1, 2014. If any
31 funds authorized by this Act remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1, 2014,
32 the amount of the unencumbered or unexpended authorization shall be canceled and
33 be of no further effect. If bonds have been issued for the loan, the amount of
34 unexpended or unencumbered bond proceeds shall be disposed of as provided in §
35 8-129 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

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