

SENATE BILL 818

B2

71r2543
CF HB 1113

By: **Senators Munson, Mooney, and Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2007

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt – Washington County – C & O Canal National**
3 **Historical Park**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$200,000,
5 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National
6 Historical Park for certain development or improvement purposes; providing for
7 disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee
8 provide and expend a matching fund; requiring the grantee to grant and convey
9 a certain easement to the Maryland Historical Trust; establishing a deadline for
10 the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan proceeds; and providing generally
11 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 Washington
16 County – C & O Canal National Historical Park Loan of 2007 in a total principal
17 amount equal to the lesser of (i) \$200,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund
18 provided in accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the
19 issuance, sale, and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a
20 resolution of the Board of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance
21 with §§ 8–117 through 8–124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and
22 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 Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National
10 Historical Park (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the planning,
11 design, and repair to the towpath in the Big Slackwater section of the C & O National
12 Historical Park, located in Downsville.

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, in kind
22 contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any
23 dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as
24 matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the
25 Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2009, to present evidence
26 satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If
27 satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of
28 the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the
29 amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act.
30 Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the
31 Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

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

35 (i) On the land or such portion of the land acceptable to the
36 Trust; and

1 (ii) On the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the
2 historic structures.

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

5 (c) The easement must be in form and substance acceptable to the
6 Trust and any liens or encumbrances against the land or the structures must be
7 acceptable to the Trust.

8 (7) The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board
9 of Public Works for the purposes provided in this Act no later than June 1, 2014. If any
10 funds authorized by this Act remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1, 2014,
11 the amount of the unencumbered or unexpended authorization shall be canceled and
12 be of no further effect. If bonds have been issued for the loan, the amount of
13 unexpended or unencumbered bond proceeds shall be disposed of as provided in §
14 8-129 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

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