

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 472 (Senator Garagiola)
Budget and Taxation

**Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2006 - Montgomery County -
Agricultural Activity Center Expansion**

This bill extends the deadline to June 1, 2010 for the County Executive and County Council of Montgomery County, as grantee, to present evidence that a matching fund will be provided for the Agricultural Activity Center, as provided in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2006.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Extending the deadline would not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: Potential increase in expenditures for Montgomery County, as grantee, if unable to access State grant funds.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 46 of 2006 authorized up to \$75,000 in matching funds for the construction, repair, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Agricultural Activity Center at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood. The grantee is required to present evidence to the Board of Public Works by June 1, 2008 that a required matching fund will be provided.

Background: The Agricultural Activity Center is located at the Agricultural History Farm Park, which is owned and operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The center houses local, State, and federal agencies that promote agricultural awareness, education, and preservation in Montgomery County. State grant funds will support an addition to the center to increase office space, meeting rooms, and storage space. In addition to the 2006 State grant, the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007 included \$200,000 for the project.

The project is a collaborative effort between Montgomery County and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Although the county appropriated funds in fiscal 2007 for planning, the commission has not indicated that expansion of the center is of continued priority. Lacking this commitment, the county executive has not included any additional funds for the project in the county's fiscal 2009-2010 Capital Improvement Program. If the extension is approved, a supplemental request will be submitted to include additional funds for the project in the fiscal 2010 CIP.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2008
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