

SENATE BILL 523

B2

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CF 9lr0802

By: **Senators Robey, Kasemeyer, and Kittleman**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2009

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt – Howard County – Ellicott City Post Office**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$500,000,
4 the proceeds to be used as a grant to the County Executive and County Council
5 of Howard County for certain development or improvement purposes; providing
6 for 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 Howard
15 County – Ellicott City Post Office Loan of 2009 in a total principal amount equal to the
16 lesser of (i) \$500,000 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.

24 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer
25 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and
26 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then
27 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable
2 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the County Executive and County Council
3 of Howard County (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the design,
4 construction, renovation, and facade enhancement of the former Ellicott City Post
5 Office, located in Ellicott City.

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

10 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the
11 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a
12 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either
13 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or
14 unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of in kind contributions or funds
15 expended prior to the effective date of this Act. The fund may consist of real property.
16 In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets
17 may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter
18 and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2011, to present
19 evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be
20 provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the
21 amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan
22 equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided
23 in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund
24 certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

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

28 (i) On the land or such portion of the land acceptable to the
29 Trust; and

30 (ii) On the exterior and interior, where appropriate, of the
31 historic structures.

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

34 (c) The easement must be in form and substance acceptable to the
35 Trust and any liens or encumbrances against the land or the structures must be
36 acceptable to the Trust.

37 (7) The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board
38 of Public Works for the purposes provided in this Act no later than June 1, 2016. If any
39 funds authorized by this Act remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1, 2016,
40 the amount of the unencumbered or unexpended authorization shall be canceled and

1 be of no further effect. If bonds have been issued for the loan, the amount of
2 unexpended or unencumbered bond proceeds shall be disposed of as provided in
3 § 8-129 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 June 1, 2009.