

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 30 (Senator Glassman)
Budget and Taxation

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2008 - Harford County -
Churchville Library Green Building and Science Center

This bill corrects the name of the grantee for the Churchville Library Green Building and Science Center, as specified by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2008. The current grantee is listed as the Harford County Public Library Foundation; the bill changes the name of the grantee to the Board of Trustees of the Harford County Public Library (HCPL).

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect the finances or operations of Harford County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 336 of 2008 authorized up to \$100,000 in matching funds for the construction and capital equipping of the Churchville Library Green Building and Science Center, located in Churchville (Harford County).

Background: HCPL advises that the word “foundation” should not have been included in the original bond request; the proposed change is technical and corrects this mistake. According to HCPL, the schematic design has been completed and the process of starting

the design development plan is underway. The \$6.5 million project is being financed with a combination of State and county funds. The matching funds have been certified.

HCPL is partnering with the Harford County Parks and Recreation Department to construct a 33,780 square foot facility that includes a 13,500 gross square foot “green” public library building in the Churchville area with a 1,500 net square foot science center for elementary and middle school children.

Harford County anticipates a significant population increase as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The county estimates that 20,000 jobs could be created in the county as a result of BRAC. The Education Subcommittee of the Harford County BRAC Planning and Advisory Commission recommends that the county create educational opportunities for children in areas related to science; HCPL believes the Churchville Library Science Center supports that recommendation.

As a “green” building, the proposed Churchville Library also reflects the county’s effort to protect its environment in accordance with the 2005 Harford County Resource Conservation Plan. HCPL is seeking the silver level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the Churchville Library which takes into account site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. As a result of this being a “green” building, HCPL believes the Churchville Library will provide the community with an opportunity to learn about sustainable growth.

The HCPL system serves over 1.5 million visitors each year. In fiscal 2007 patrons borrowed nearly 4 million items from the 11 library branches.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford County, Board of Public Works, Department of General Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2009
mcp/rhh

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