

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 132
Appropriations

(Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*)

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2008 - Montgomery County -
Sharp Street United Methodist Church Modular Building

This bill authorizes the matching fund for the Sharp Street United Methodist Church modular building to consist of real property in addition to in-kind contributions as established by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2008. The bill also corrects the proposed location of the modular building. The church is located in Sandy Spring, rather than Silver Spring as specified in Chapter 336 of 2008.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None. The bill does not affect the finances or operations of Montgomery County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 336 of 2008 authorizes up to \$100,000 in matching funds to the Board of Trustees of the Sharp Street United Methodist Church, Inc. for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of a modular building for use as a food pantry. The grantee is required to grant and convey an historic easement to the Maryland Historical Trust.

Background: The Sharp Street United Methodist Church operates a pantry that provides food and clothing to needy residents in the Sandy Spring community. The pantry is staffed by volunteers (parishioners and members of the community at large) and collects donations from local vendors.

According to the grantee, the church is the oldest African American church in Montgomery County and was founded by freed slaves in the 1820s.

The Sharp Street United Methodist Church plans to build a permanent modular structure so that it may expand the pantry's operations. In addition to distributing food and clothing, the grantee plans to use the building to host job-training programs and hold classes on health and nutrition. The pantry currently serves approximately 1,000 people per year and anticipates serving 1,600 annually when construction of the building is complete. Although the church has been unable to raise matching funds for the project, a recent appraisal by Montgomery County established that the church's property value is higher than the \$100,000 matching fund requirement.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 313 (Senator Kramer, *et al.*) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Board of Public Works, Department of General Services, Montgomery County, Sharp Street United Methodist Church, Department of Legislative Services.

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2009
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