

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1523 (Delegate Heller)
Appropriations

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007 - Montgomery County -
Agriculture Activity Center Expansion

This bill changes the grantee of the Agriculture Activity Center Expansion project from the County Executive and County Council of Montgomery County to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), and extends the deadline to June 1, 2011, for the grantee to present evidence that a matching fund will be provided, as established in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007.

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 Montgomery County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 488 of 2007 authorizes up to \$200,000 in matching funds for the construction, repair, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Agriculture 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, 2009, that a required matching fund will be provided. No part of the matching fund may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to June 1, 2007.

Background: The grant is provided to Montgomery County for building an addition onto the Agriculture Activity Center located at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood. The center houses local, State, and federal agencies that promote agricultural awareness, education, and preservation in Montgomery County. The Agricultural History Farm Park is a 410-acre facility owned and operated by MNCPPC. The property has a number of important resources, including historic structures, natural areas, modern agricultural fields, and an activity center which was constructed in 1988.

The proposed expansion will include the construction of a new wing onto the current Agriculture Activity Center. The addition will include office space for 10 staff members, storage, meeting rooms, and a large auditorium for educational events.

Each spring the Agriculture Activity Center hosts “Close Encounters with Agriculture,” which is a hands-on agricultural education program for elementary school students. Approximately 2,700 fourth graders visit the center each year to participate in this program. The new wing will provide additional room for “Close Encounters with Agriculture.”

The \$2.1 million project is being financed with a combination of funds from the State, county, and MNCPPC.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 25, 2009
mlm/rhh

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