

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 36 (Senator Lenett)  
Budget and Taxation

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

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This bill extends the deadline to June 1, 2011, for the County Executive and County Council of Montgomery County to present evidence that a matching fund will be provided for the Agriculture Activity Center, as established in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

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**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.

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**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 the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (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.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

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

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