

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 937 (Senator Garagiola)  
Budget and Taxation

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Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2008 - Montgomery County -  
Button Farm Historic Preservation and Rehabilitation

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This bill extends the deadline to June 1, 2012, for the Board of Directors of the Menare Foundation, Inc., as grantee, to present evidence of a matching fund for the Button Farm Historic Preservation and Rehabilitation project, as established in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2008.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect government 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 336 of 2008 authorizes up to \$300,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the Menare Foundation, Inc. for the planning, design, construction, repair, and renovation of the Button Farm, located in Germantown. Matching funds may not consist of real estate, but may consist of in-kind contributions or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2008 effective date of Chapter 336.

**Background:** The Menare Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Underground Railroad as a symbol of cultural unity and the ongoing quest for freedom. The foundation works with individuals and organizations to promote community revitalization, race dialogue, and cultural growth. The foundation is based on the 60-acre Button Farm.

The foundation advises that the farm has several historic structures slated for restoration – including a house built circa 1927 and a Civil War-era barn. Once restored, the house will serve as an office, library, and as a residence for the manager of the Button Farm site. The project is supported by in-kind donations of professional services, and grants from Montgomery County and the State.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 15, 2010  
mpc/ljm

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