

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 63
Appropriations

(Delegate Bohanan)

Budget and Taxation

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2008 and 2010 - St. Mary's County
- United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument

This emergency bill adds a co-grantee to the United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument project, as established by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2008 (as amended by Chapter 372 of 2010) and 2010. In addition, the bill alters the authorized uses of the grant monies.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect the finances or operations of St. Mary's County. The county advises that it anticipated donating a site for this project prior to the bill; thus, the county's involvement is unchanged by the bill's provisions.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill includes the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County as the project's co-grantee for each grant, which is in addition to the Board of Directors of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc., the current grantee. The bill does not change the original purpose of the project but specifies that matching funds may also be used for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of a memorial park and memorial interpretive center.

Current Law: Chapter 336 of 2008 (as amended by Chapter 372 of 2010) authorizes up to \$150,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc. for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of the United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument, located in Lexington Park. Matching funds may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2008 effective date of Chapter 336. The grantee must present evidence of a matching fund by June 1, 2012.

Likewise, Chapter 483 of 2010 authorizes up to \$150,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc. for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of the United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument, located in Lexington Park. Matching funds may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2010 effective date of Chapter 483.

Background: The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase understanding of African American contributions to history and the development of St. Mary's County. The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions is responsible for designing and constructing the United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument, which will honor Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and all Union soldiers and sailors from St. Mary's County who served during the Civil War.

The grantee advises that construction of the project began recently and that matching funds are in place for the State grants. The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions advises that adding the Board of Commissioners of St. Mary's County as a co-grantee is necessary because the monument site is county property, and the property is being used to meet the matching fund requirement established by Chapters 336 and 483. In order for the county land to be used as evidence of a matching fund, the county must be listed as a grantee for the project.

The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions further advises that the bill's changes to the authorized uses for matching fund monies clarifies that matching funds may be used for purposes other than simply the development of the monument; plans for the project also include a memorial park and "interpretive center."

According to the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, the monument is under construction by a sculptor, and the site is being prepared to accommodate the finished monument. The monument is slated to be in place by the fall of 2011, which is the 150-year anniversary of the Civil War.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc.;
St. Mary's County; Department of General Services; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Michael T. Vorgetts

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510