

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 493
Appropriations

(Delegates Conway and Cane)

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - Wicomico County -
Salisbury Zoological Park Animal Health Clinic

This bill changes the grantee for the Salisbury Zoological Park Animal Health Clinic project, as specified by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010. The current grantee is listed as the Board of Directors of the Salisbury Zoo Commission, Inc. The bill specifies that the project's grantee is the Mayor and City Council of the City of Salisbury.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Absent the bill, the City of Salisbury may lose access to the \$160,000 in matching funds authorized for this project.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 483 of 2010 authorizes up to \$160,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the Salisbury Zoo Commission, Inc. for the construction and capital equipping of the Salisbury Zoological Park Animal Health Clinic. Matching funds may consist of funds expended prior to the June 1, 2010 effective date of Chapter 483 but may not consist of in-kind contributions or real property.

Background: The Salisbury Zoo Commission is a nonprofit organization that supports the Salisbury Zoological Park with financial and organizational assistance. The commission has raised funds for capital improvements at the zoo and has raised funds in anticipation of meeting the matching fund requirements stipulated in Chapter 483.

Currently, the zoo has a small animal clinic space and a limited quarantine facility. The commission advises that the Association of Zoos and Aquariums requires these facilities to be separated. In order to maintain the zoo's accreditation, the commission advises that the zoo must build an adequate quarantine facility to accommodate the zoo's collection; the zoo must also maintain an adequate medical facility to treat illnesses and injuries to animals within the collection. The proposed animal clinic includes proper medical space for the zoo and will separate the medical activities from the diet preparation activities.

The grantee advises that, although the commission is responsible for the fundraising effort associated with this project, the funds raised are transferred to the City of Salisbury, which is responsible for administering the construction project. Thus, the bill's change is needed to accurately reflect the entity responsible for presenting evidence of the existence of matching funds.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Salisbury Zoo Commission, Inc.; Wicomico County; Department of General Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2011
mlm/ljm

Analysis by: Michael T. Vorgetts

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