

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 554 (Senator Madaleno, *et al.*)
Budget and Taxation

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - Montgomery County -
Warner Manor

This bill specifies that matching funds for the Warner Manor project, as established by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010, may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, and funds expended on or after December 1, 2005. The bill also specifies that the grantee has until June 1, 2013, to present evidence of a matching fund; grant monies must be expended by the grantee or encumbered by the Board of Public Works no later than June 1, 2013.

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 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) may lose access to the \$275,000 in matching funds authorized for this project as the timeframe to utilize these monies expires June 1, 2012.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 483 of 2010 authorized up to \$275,000 in matching funds to M-NCPPC for the design, construction, repair, renovation, and reconstruction of Warner Manor, located in Kensington. Matching funds may not consist of in-kind contributions, real property, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2010 effective date of Chapter 483.

Chapter 204 of 2003 (as amended by Chapter 432 of 2004, Chapter 608 of 2006, and Chapter 219 of 2008) and Chapter 46 of 2006 (as amended by Chapter 219 of 2008) authorized a total of up to \$250,000 in matching funds to M-NCPPC for the planning, design, renovation, and demolition of Warner Manor. The grantee must grant and convey an historic easement to the Maryland Historical Trust.

Background: Warner Manor was the home of Brainard Warner, who was the founder of the Town of Kensington and a significant figure in the development of Montgomery County. The four-and-a-half acre property, located in Kensington's historic district, was acquired by M-NCPPC through the Legacy Open Space program. M-NCPPC, in coordination with the Town of Kensington and other stakeholders, plans to convert the property into a public park (an historic 13,000 square-foot house that sits on the property will be converted into a park stewardship office and public venue). The grantee advises that construction of the park is estimated to cost about \$5 million. The project is supported by federal, State, and county grants, bonds, and loans.

The grantee advises that the project is in the planning and design phase; the design scheme – including plans for the building renovation and the landscape master plan – for the park is roughly 35% complete. Matching funds from an earlier State grant totaling \$100,000 have been received and spent down on the project. The grantee advises that the bill's changes allow for the use of the property – a \$6 million acquisition – as evidence of the existence of matching funds.

M-NCPPC was established in 1927 and has jurisdiction over parks and land use planning in most of Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The commission is governed by Article 28 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The commission prepares and administers a general plan for the physical development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District, an area that encompasses almost all of Montgomery and Prince George's counties. In addition, the commission is charged with acquiring and maintaining a system of parks within the metropolitan district in the two counties. The commission also operates a recreation system for Prince George's County. The commission is funded primarily through various property taxes authorized under Article 28 of the Annotated Code of Maryland and imposed by Montgomery and Prince George's counties. In addition, enterprise fund operations are supported by various service fees and charges.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of General Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2011
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