

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 96

(Senator Garagiola)

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 changes the purpose of Agriculture Activity Center Expansion grant as established by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007. The grant is modified from its original purpose, which was to renovate the Agriculture Activity Center in Derwood. Under the bill, matching funds may be used for the design, construction, repair, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Day Use Area at the Little Bennett Regional Park in Clarksburg. The bill allows funds expended prior to June 1, 2007, to meet the matching fund requirement and extends the deadline to present evidence of a matching fund from June 1, 2011, to June 1, 2013.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011.

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**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 \$200,000 in matching funds authorized for this project as the two-year timeframe to present evidence of the match in order to utilize these monies expires June 1, 2011.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 488 of 2007 authorized up to \$200,000 in matching funds to the County Executive and County Council of Montgomery County for the construction, repair, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Agriculture Activity Center at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood. The grantee was required to present evidence by June 1, 2009, that a required matching fund would be provided. No part of the matching fund could consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to June 1, 2007. Chapter 707 of 2009 changed the grantee for the project to M-NCPPC and extended the deadline to present evidence of a matching fund to June 1, 2011.

**Background:** M-NCPPC advises that there was inadequate funding available for the Agriculture Activity Center expansion project; the estimated cost of the renovation is \$2.1 million. M-NCPPC advises that the grant funds are being repurposed for a less expensive project at a different location.

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.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 2011  
ncs/ljm

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