

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 98
Appropriations

(Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2009 - Baltimore City - Roland
Park Fire Station Rehabilitation

This bill changes the name of the grantee for the Roland Park Fire Station Rehabilitation project, as specified by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2009. The current grantee is the Baltimore City Fire Department; the bill specifies that the project's grantee is the Mayor and City Council of the City of Baltimore.

The bill establishes a deadline for the grantee to present evidence of matching fund. The proceeds of this loan must be encumbered by the Board of Public Works or expended by 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 Baltimore City Fire Department loses access to the \$110,000 in matching funds authorized for this project as the two-year timeframe to utilize these monies expires June 30, 2011.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 485 of 2009 authorizes a grant of \$110,000 to the Baltimore City Fire Department for the repair and renovation of the Roland Park Fire Station in

Baltimore City. Chapter 485 requires the grantee to expend a matching fund of \$20,000. The matching fund may not consist of real property but may consist of in-kind contributions or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2009 effective date of Chapter 485.

Background: The Roland Park Fire Station was built in 1895. According to the Roland Park Civic League, which has coordinated on this project with the Baltimore City Fire Department, the project is intended to improve the living conditions at the station. The Roland Park Civic League further advises that the conditions do not offer basic accommodations for firefighters who work extended shifts and spend long periods of time at the station: the bathroom facilities are inadequate, the kitchen is rundown, and sleeping quarters offer limited privacy for the unit's male and female firefighters. Moreover, the lockers firefighters use to store their gear do not allow for proper ventilation. Thus, protective gear occasionally does not dry and the dampness may cause steam burns when the gear is used in extreme conditions.

Baltimore City advises that altering the project's grantee is a technical change. Thus, the city advises, including the Mayor and City Council of the City of Baltimore as grantee more properly identifies the entity responsible for raising the matching fund and managing the grant. The bill's changes do not affect the scope of the project, and the city advises that it has earmarked \$20,000 in matching funds needed in order to receive the State grant monies authorized by Chapter 485.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Roland Park Civic League, Baltimore City, Department of General Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2011
ncs/ljm

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