

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1320
Appropriations

(Delegate Bohanan)

**Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007 - St. Mary's County - St.
Mary's County Fairgrounds**

This bill extends the deadline – from June 1, 2012, to June 1, 2014 – for the Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Fair Association, Inc., to present evidence that a matching fund will be provided for the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds project, as required by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007 (as amended by Chapter 372 of 2010).

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect the operations or finances of St. Mary's County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 488 of 2007, as amended by Chapter 372 of 2010, authorized up to \$75,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Fair Association, Inc. for the construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. The matching funds may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2007 effective date

of Chapter 488. Chapter 372 established a deadline of June 1, 2012, for the grantee to present evidence that the required matching funds will be provided.

Chapter 483 of 2010 also authorized up to \$60,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Fair Association, Inc. for the construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. The 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: Each year there are approximately 120,000 visits to the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. Approximately half those visits are during the county fair, where visitors can see livestock up close and 4-H members completing their projects. The other 60,000 visits are for various community events, such as the Crab Festival, Oyster Festival, Spring Festival, and Southern Maryland Invitational Livestock Show, which raise thousands of dollars for local charities.

The grantee reports that it plans to use the grant for two main projects: renovating the men's restroom facility in the old auditorium building and demolishing and rebuilding a larger main restroom facility. The grantee also plans to install concrete floors and walkways in the livestock buildings, add insulation and plywood walls to the commercial exhibit building, install a drainpipe in the parking lot, and install a security system for several fairground buildings. The grantee reports that, although it has raised the required funds, it does not want to disrupt its busy spring and summer seasons with construction. The grantee reports it anticipates construction will begin on the restroom facilities in fall 2012.

Additional Comments: The bill does not reflect Chapter 396 of 2011, which amended the grant to reflect that the fairgrounds are located in Leonardtown and not St. Mary's City. Also, the extension only applies to the \$75,000 grant; the second grant authorized by Chapter 483 is not affected as those funds have already been expended.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County, St. Mary's County Fair Association, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2012
ncs/ljm

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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