

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1291
Appropriations

(Delegate Luedtke, *et al.*)

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - Montgomery County -
Maydale Nature Center

This bill extends the deadline – from June 1, 2012, to June 1, 2014 – for the Board of Directors of The Friends of Maydale Nature Center, Inc., as grantee, to present evidence that a matching fund will be provided for the reconstruction of the Maydale Nature Center as required by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010. The bill also specifies that the proceeds of the loan must be encumbered by the Board of Public Works or expended by the grantee by June 1, 2014.

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 Montgomery County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 483 of 2010 authorized two separate grants totaling \$55,000 to the Board of Directors of The Friends of Maydale Nature Center, Inc., as grantee, for reconstruction of the Maydale Nature Center, located in Colesville. The first grant authorized \$20,000, subject to the requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund of \$10,000. The matching fund may consist of in-kind contributions, but

it may not consist of real property or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2010 effective date of Chapter 483. The grantee has until June 1, 2012, to present evidence that the required matching funds will be provided. The proceeds of the loan must be encumbered by the Board of Public Works or expended by the grantee by June 1, 2012. The second grant authorized a grant of \$35,000 for the reconstruction of the Maydale Nature Center; it did not include a matching fund requirement.

Background: The Maydale Nature Center is located in Colesville and is surrounded by more than 24 acres of parkland. From 1994 through fall 2007, an early childhood environmental education program was operated at the center. The program served about 4,000 students in prekindergarten through third grade each year from seven elementary schools and provided an opportunity for children to be introduced to a variety of environmental features – a meadow, a stream, two ponds, wetlands, animal and bird habitat, and forest – within a short walking distance.

The building was closed in fall 2008 following an assessment that identified a number of needed repairs and improvements. After the building was closed, the environmental education program could no longer continue. Although Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) spent funds to repair the roof and furnace, additional funds are required to reopen the center so that the environmental education program can be reinstated.

The grantee reports it does not want to spend the grant funds to renovate the Maydale Nature Center until it has an agreement with MCPS and the Montgomery County Department of Parks that once the repairs are completed the center will be used for the early childhood environmental education program. Due to the economic climate, the grantee has been thus far unable to secure an agreement about operating funds; however, with the extension the grantee anticipates an agreement will be reached and it will be able to raise the required matching funds.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 985 (Senator Montgomery) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Department of General Services, Montgomery County, Friends of the Maydale Nature Center, 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