

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 1051 (Senator Kasemeyer)  
Budget and Taxation

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**Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - Howard County - Symphony Woods Park**

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This bill extends the deadline from – June 1, 2012, to June 1, 2014 – for the Board of Directors of the Columbia Association, Inc., as grantee, to provide evidence that a matching fund will be provided for the Symphony Woods Park project as required in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010. The bill also prohibits the grant from being terminated before June 1, 2014.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect the finances or operations of Howard County.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapter 483 of 2010 authorized up to \$250,000 for the design and construction of the Symphony Woods Park in Columbia. The required matching funds may not consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2010 effective date of Chapter 483. If any funds remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1, 2012, the amount of the unexpended or unencumbered

authorization must be canceled. Chapter 483 authorized two grants; the bill's changes affect both grants.

**Background:** Symphony Woods Park is a 36-acre park that encircles Merriweather Post Pavilion, the region's premiere outdoor concert venue. Columbia Association, the grantee, is transforming the park from a sparsely used open space, to a community gathering space that retains the park's natural beauty. When completed, Symphony Woods Park will have a central fountain and pathways, and it will serve as a connector for downtown Columbia activity centers.

Symphony Woods Park was the first project reviewed under Howard County's new downtown zoning approval process. The grantee reports that the new zoning approval process took longer than expected and is the reason an extension is needed. As the zoning approval is now complete, the grantee anticipates that there will be no further delays and the project will be able to be completed by June 1, 2014.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of General Services, Howard County, Columbia Association, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2012  
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