

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1414
Appropriations

(Delegate McHale, *et al.*)

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - Baltimore City - Port
Discovery

This bill extends the deadline – from June 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012 – for the Board of Directors of the Baltimore Children’s Museum, Inc., as grantee, to present evidence that a matching fund will be provided for the Port Discovery project 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 December 31, 2012.

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 finances or operations of Baltimore City.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 483 of 2010 authorized up to \$100,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the Baltimore Children’s Museum, Inc., for the planning, design, construction, renovation, and capital equipping of Port Discovery, to include replacing windows, construction of permanent exhibits, replacing the roof, and reconfiguring the stairways and doorways to improve the flow of traffic through the museum, located in

Baltimore City. 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.

Background: Port Discovery Children's Museum, located in downtown Baltimore, boasts annual attendance of 250,000. Port Discovery provides exhibits and activities for children from birth to age 10, including structured school visits, State-subsidized admissions for school groups, after-school programs, free and low-cost community programs, and family memberships. Housed in the Fish Market, an historic 102-year-old building, Port Discovery is currently implementing a 10-year Green Renovation Project with the ultimate goal of obtaining Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (better known as LEED) certification in 2017. The museum just completed installation of a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system. According to the grantee, all matching funds have been certified and all but \$16,000 has been spent. A six-month extension will allow Port Discovery time to complete the next phase of its project and claim the full grant award.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 1050 (Senator Ferguson) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Baltimore Children's Museum, Inc., Baltimore City, Department of General Services, Department of Legislative Services

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

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