

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 4 (Senator Ramirez)
Budget and Taxation

**Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - Prince George's County -
Bladensburg Market Square II**

This bill extends the deadline – from June 1, 2012, to June 1, 2016 – for the Board of Directors of Prince George’s Heritage (PGH), Inc. to present evidence that matching funds will be provided 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, 2016.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect the finances or operations of Prince George’s County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 483 of 2010 authorized up to \$100,000 in matching funds as a grant to the Board of Directors of PGH for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the second phase of the Bladensburg Market Square project located in Bladensburg. Matching funds may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2010

effective date of Chapter 483. The proceeds of the loan must be encumbered by the Board of Public Works or expended by June 1, 2012.

Chapter 336 of 2008 authorized up to \$20,000 in matching funds as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Aman Memorial Trust, Inc. for the acquisition, planning, design, and archeological survey of the Bladensburg Market Square. Chapter 336 also granted an historic easement to the Maryland Historical Trust.

Background: PGH is reconstructing the historic Market Square of Bladensburg and promoting its redevelopment. The reconstruction is focused on several key historical sites circa 1750 to 1825 known as the “string of pearls” – including the Market Master’s House, Bostwick, the George Washington House/Indian Queen Tavern, the Magruder House, and the Free Hope Baptist Church. Additional sites included in the project are the Bladensburg Waterfront Park and its 1,000-foot wharf, the historic waterfront spa, War of 1812 battle sites, and Evergreen Cemetery. The reconstruction is based on historical and archeological research, particularly the work of the University of Maryland School of Architecture and Real Estate Development and the Maryland Department of Transportation.

The redeveloped Market Square is expected to include both year-round tenants, such as a bakery and coffee shop, as well as seasonal vendors, such as farm and seafood markets. With a comprehensive redevelopment plan focused on sustainable development and heritage tourism, the grantee and supporters hope to encourage competitive grant applications for the Star Spangled Trail. They also hope to use the redevelopment to leverage the relocation of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission sewage pumping station and the rebuilding of the Kennilworth Bridge to provide safe and attractive pedestrian access between the waterfront and the Bladensburg town center.

PGH, the grantee, reports that it has raised the required matching funds but is delaying spending the funds (as required to receive the grant funds) because it needs additional time to coordinate with the numerous partners involved with the project. PGH advises that it wants to spend the money in the most effective manner, and the extra time will allow it to do so. Currently, PGH is developing interpretive signage for a trail through Bladensburg that highlights the “string of pearls,” and is coordinating with its partners on the exact trail location and related logistics.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 503 (Delegate Niemann, *et al.*) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/ljm

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