

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 178
Appropriations

(Delegate Bohanan)

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - St. Mary's County - United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument

This bill adds a co-grantee to the United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument project, as established by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010. In addition, the bill alters the authorized uses of the grant monies. Matching funds may consist of funds expended on or after January 1, 2007. The bill extends the deadline to June 1, 2016, for the grantees to present evidence that a matching fund will be provided. Any proceeds of the loan must be encumbered by the Board of Public Works or expended by the grantees by June 1, 2016.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect the finances or operations of St. Mary's County. The county advises that it anticipated donating a site for this project prior to the bill; thus, the county's involvement is unchanged by the bill's provisions.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill includes the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County as the project's co-grantee for the grant, which is in addition to the Board of Directors of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc., the current grantee. The bill does not change the original purpose of the project but specifies that

matching funds may also be used for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of a memorial park and memorial interpretive center.

Current Law: Chapter 483 of 2010 authorizes up to \$150,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc., for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of the United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument, located in Lexington Park. Matching funds may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2010 effective date of Chapter 483.

Chapter 336 of 2008 (as amended by Chapter 372 of 2010 and Chapter 396 of 2011) also authorizes up to \$150,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc., *and* the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of the United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument, *the memorial park, and a memorial interpretive center* located in Lexington Park. Matching funds may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2008 effective date of Chapter 336. The grantee must present evidence of a matching fund by June 1, 2012.

Background: The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase understanding of African American contributions to history and the development of St. Mary's County. The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions is responsible for designing and constructing the United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument, which will honor Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and all Union soldiers and sailors from St. Mary's County who served during the Civil War.

The first authorization for the project (Chapter 336 of 2008 as amended by Chapter 372 of 2010) was further amended by Chapter 396 of 2011 to add the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County as the project's co-grantee. Chapter 396 also allowed the matching funds to be used for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of a memorial park and memorial interpretive center. This bill makes the same changes to Chapter 483 of 2010.

The grantee advises that construction of the project began in 2011 and that matching funds are in place for the State grants. The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions advises that adding the Board of Commissioners of St. Mary's County as a co-grantee is necessary because the monument site is county property, and the property is being used to meet the matching fund requirement established by Chapters 336 and 483. In order for the county land to be used as evidence of a matching fund, the county must be listed as a grantee for the project.

The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions further advises that the bill's changes to the authorized uses for matching fund monies clarifies that matching funds may be used for purposes other than simply the development of the monument; plans for the project also include a memorial park and "interpretive center."

According to the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, the monument is under construction by a sculptor, and the site is being prepared to accommodate the finished monument. The monument is slated to be in place by June 2012.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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