

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 991
Appropriations

(Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - Baltimore City - Glen
Avenue Firehouse

This bill extends the deadline – from June 1, 2012, to June 1, 2014 – for the Mayor and City Council of the City of Baltimore, as grantee, to provide evidence that a matching fund will be provided for the Glen Avenue Firehouse project as required by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010, as amended. The bill also specifies that the grant may not terminate before June 1, 2014.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Absent the bill, the Baltimore City could lose access to the \$75,000 in matching funds authorized for this project.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 483 of 2010 (SB 142), as amended by Chapter 396 of 2011 (HB 71), authorized up to \$75,000 in matching funds to the Mayor and City Council of the City of Baltimore for the repair, renovation, and capital equipping of the Glen Avenue Firehouse, located in Baltimore City. Matching funds may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, and 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.

Background: The Glen Avenue Firehouse houses Engine 45, Truck 27, Medic 14, and the oldest fire department-run train garden – a seasonal model train display – in Baltimore City. In addition to the normal emergency services, several public awareness campaigns including the smoke detector and infant car seat programs are run out of this firehouse. The firehouse is old and in need of repair. The ceiling is leaking, the floor is cracking, and the paint, some of which is lead-based, is peeling. In addition, the building lacks adequate lighting and ventilation, and the building's old wiring is both a fire and occupational hazard. The restrooms must be shared by both male and female employees, with no privacy. There is also no storage room to house extra equipment. Finally, the medic unit needs to be moved for two months of the year when the train garden is set up for the public as part of its outreach program. The renovations are intended to rectify these problems.

Baltimore City advises that it provided enough eligible contracts to encumber both the match and grant portions by the June 1, 2012 deadline. However, construction was delayed, primarily because the city had to decide where to accommodate the firefighters during construction. That problem has been solved, and now construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2013.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of General Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2013
mlm/ljm

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