

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 406
Appropriations

(Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2009 - Baltimore City - Roland
Park Fire Station Rehabilitation

This bill expands the authorized use of a grant to the Mayor and City Council of the City of Baltimore specified in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2009, as amended, to include the repair and renovation of heat pumps at the Roland Park Fire Station. The bill also extends the deadline by one year – from December 1, 2012, to December 1, 2013 – for the grantee to present evidence that the matching fund will be provided. The bill likewise specifies that authorization for the grant may not terminate before December 1, 2013.

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, Baltimore City could lose access to \$110,000 in matching funds authorized for this project.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 485 of 2009 (HB 102), as amended, authorized a \$110,000 grant, contingent on a \$20,000 matching fund, to the Mayor and City Council of the City of Baltimore for the repair and renovation of the Roland Park Fire Station, located in Baltimore City. The matching fund could consist of in-kind contributions or funds

expended prior to the June 1, 2009 effective date of Chapter 485, but it could not consist of real property. The grantee had until December 1, 2012, to present evidence that the matching fund would be provided. If any funds remained unexpended or unencumbered after December 1, 2012, the amount of the unexpended or unencumbered authorization was to be canceled.

Background: The Roland Park Fire Station was built in 1895. According to the Roland Park Civic League, which has coordinated on this project with the Baltimore City Fire Department, the project is intended to improve the living conditions at the station. The Roland Park Civic League further advises that the conditions do not offer basic accommodations for firefighters who work extended shifts and spend long periods of time at the station: the bathroom facilities are inadequate, the kitchen is rundown, and sleeping quarters offer limited privacy for the unit's male and female firefighters. Moreover, the lockers firefighters use to store their gear do not allow for proper ventilation. Thus, protective gear occasionally does not dry and the dampness may cause steam burns when the gear is used in extreme conditions.

The grantee reports that it submitted the paperwork for certification of the match and reimbursement of projects to the Department of General Services (DGS) just prior to the December 1, 2012 deadline. However, more time is needed for DGS to determine what parts of the project are reimbursable. The extension allows more time to do so and enables the city to include additional phases of the renovations (the roof is scheduled to be replaced in spring 2013) if portions of the completed renovations are not eligible for reimbursement. Finally, the grantee advises that it is unaware why the authorized use of the grant funds is being expanded to include the repair and renovation of heat pumps, as this purpose, major heat pump repair, is *likely* covered in the current language of the grant authorization.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 201 (Senator Gladden) - Budget and Taxation.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2013
ncs/ljm

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