

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1196 (Delegate Guzzone)  
Appropriations

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Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - Howard County - Symphony Woods Park

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This bill extends the deadline from – June 1, 2013, to June 1, 2014 – for the Board of Directors of the Columbia Association, Inc., as grantee, to present evidence that a matching fund will be provided for the Symphony Woods Park project as required in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010. The bill also prohibits the grant from being terminated before June 1, 2014.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013.

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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 Howard County.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 483 of 2010 (SB 142) authorized up to \$250,000 for the design and construction of the Symphony Woods Park in Columbia. The required matching funds may not consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2010 effective date of Chapter 483. Chapter 649 of 2012 (SB 1037) extended the deadline to present evidence that a matching fund will be provided, by one year to

June 1, 2013. Likewise, the grant was prohibited from terminating before June 1, 2013. Chapter 483 authorized two grants; the bill's changes only affect the grant for \$190,000.

**Background:** Symphony Woods Park is a 36-acre park that encircles Merriweather Post Pavilion, the region's premiere outdoor concert venue. Columbia Association, the grantee, is transforming the park from a sparsely used open space, to a community gathering space that retains the park's natural beauty. When completed, Symphony Woods Park will have a central fountain and pathways, and it will serve as a connector for downtown Columbia activity centers.

Symphony Woods Park was the first project reviewed under Howard County's new downtown zoning approval process. The grantee reports that the new zoning approval process took longer than expected and is the reason an extension is needed. The grantee reports that it has had to completely rework the design plan and is still in the development phase. However, the grantee is allowed to use the funds for design work, for the project. Thus, the grantee anticipates that, if the deadline to use the funds is extended to June 1, 2014, it will be able to expend the entire \$190,000 grant for the project.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of General Services, Columbia Association, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 2013  
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