

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 533
Appropriations

(Delegate Zucker, *et al.*)

**Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2012 - Montgomery County -
Woodlawn Barn Visitor's Center**

This bill extends the deadline – from June 1, 2014, to June 1, 2016 – for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), as grantee, to present evidence that matching funds will be provided for two grants for the Woodlawn Barn Visitor’s Center facility as required in the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2012, as amended. The bill prohibits the grants from terminating before December 1, 2017, rather than December 1, 2015.

The bill clarifies that “funds expended prior to the effective date of this act” refer to funds expended between the dates of June 1, 2010, and June 1, 2012. The bill removes the Board of Trustees of the Montgomery County Parks Foundation, Inc., as grantee in both grants. The bill corrects the name of the remaining grantee in one of the grants from the “Board of Directors of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission” to “Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.”

The bill takes effect June 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Absent the bill, M-NCPPC may lose access to \$300,000 in funds.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 404 of 2012 (the fiscal 2013 capital budget), as amended by Chapter 430 of 2013, authorized two separate grants for a total of up to \$300,000 to M-NCPPC and the Board of Trustees of the Montgomery County Parks Foundation, Inc., for the design, construction, repair, renovation, and rehabilitation of the Woodlawn Barn Visitor's Center facility, including the construction and installation of interpretive program exhibits, located in Silver Spring. Matching funds may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2012 effective date of Chapter 404. The grantee has until June 1, 2014, to present evidence that a matching fund will be provided; however, the proceeds of the loans must be expended or encumbered by the Board of Public Works by December 1, 2015. If any funds remain unexpended or unencumbered after December 1, 2015, the amount of the unexpended or unencumbered authorizations must be cancelled. Chapter 430 corrected the name of the grantee in only one of the grants authorized by Chapter 404 from the "Board of Directors of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission" to "Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission." The grants are subject to a requirement that the grantee grant and convey an historic easement to the Maryland Historical Trust.

All of the bill's changes apply to both grants, except for the correction to the name of the remaining grantee, as Chapter 430 already corrected the name of the grantee in one of the grants.

Background: The Woodlawn Barn is an historic barn that dates back to the early nineteenth century in Montgomery County. The bonds are to fund the barn's conversion to a visitor's center, where visitors can learn about the Underground Railroad and Quaker heritage. Multimedia exhibits will be installed throughout the barn without disturbing the historic integrity of the structure.

The Montgomery County Parks Foundation advises that it and M-NCPPC have had issues pertaining to the Department of General Services' grant agreement. Specifically, M-NCPPC's attorneys will not execute the grant agreement unless the Montgomery County Parks Foundation is removed as co-grantee. Because M-NCPPC's attorneys will not execute the grant agreement with the Parks Foundation, the Woodlawn Barn Visitor's Center project has been delayed, necessitating an extension of both the matching fund requirement and grant termination dates.

M-NCPPC advises that it has the requisite matching funds available for immediate certification. The extensions for meeting the matching fund requirement to June 1, 2016, and prohibiting the grants from terminating before December 1, 2017, are to safeguard against losing the funds.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 782 (Senator Montgomery) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Department of General Services, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County, Montgomery County Parks Foundation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2014
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Analysis by: Matthew B. Jackson

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510