

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 416 (Carroll County Senators)
Budget and Taxation

Carroll County - Public Facilities Bond

This bill authorizes the Carroll County Commissioners to issue up to \$36.9 million in general obligation (GO) bonds for the acquisition, construction, improvement, or renovation of public buildings, facilities, and public works projects. The date of maturity of the bonds cannot exceed 30 years. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Carroll County receives up to \$36.9 million in bond proceeds. County debt service expenditures increase by an estimated \$2.6 million annually over a 20-year period.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Commission counties do not have the legislative power to create debt; General Assembly authorization is required before any bonds can be sold. Carroll County is one of six counties that still operates under the commission form of government.

Local Fiscal Effect: Since 2015, Carroll County has received authorization by the General Assembly to issue up to \$316.4 million in GO bonds for public facilities, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. **Exhibit 2** shows the planned capital projects in Carroll County for fiscal 2026.

Exhibit 1
Bond Authorizations for Carroll County
(\$ in Millions)

| <u>Session</u> | <u>Chapter Number</u> | <u>Authorized Amount</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2015 | Chapter 84 | \$17.0 |
| 2016 | Chapter 254 | 31.0 |
| 2017 | Chapter 435 | 25.0 |
| 2018 | Chapter 89 | 32.7 |
| 2019 | Chapter 184 | 28.5 |
| 2020 | Chapter 285 | 38.3 |
| 2021 | Chapter 730 | 48.5 |
| 2023 | Chapter 81 | 65.6 |
| 2024 | Chapter 684 | 29.8 |
| Total | | \$316.4 |

Carroll County revenues increase by up to \$36.9 million from bond proceeds. Annual debt service costs for the bonds total approximately \$2.6 million. This estimate is based on a 3.72% interest rate and a 20-year term of maturity. To the extent that the bond issuance, interest rate, or term of maturity deviate from this assumption, debt service expenditures would adjust accordingly.

At the end of fiscal 2023, Carroll County had approximately \$287.2 million in total outstanding debt, which represents approximately 1.3% of the county's assessable base and \$1,637 on a per capita basis. The county currently has an AAA credit rating from Standard & Poor's, an Aaa credit rating from Moody's Investors Service, and an AAA credit rating from Fitch Ratings.

Information on local debt measures for Maryland counties and Baltimore City can be found in the [Local Government Overview](#) report. A copy of the 2025 report can be found on the Department of Legislative Services [website](#).

Exhibit 2
Carroll County Bond Authorization Request
Fiscal 2026

| <u>Project Description</u> | <u>Project Amount</u> |
|--|------------------------------|
| Public Schools | |
| Freedom Elementary Addition | \$2,218,500 |
| HVAC System Replacement – Carroll Springs | 738,000 |
| Prekindergarten Additions | 7,071,000 |
| Roof Replacement – Shiloh Middle | 3,466,000 |
| Sykesville Middle Addition | 5,514,500 |
| Total Public Schools | \$19,008,000 |
| Conservation and Open Space | |
| Agricultural Land – Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Program | \$1,333,400 |
| Stormwater Facility Renovation | 310,000 |
| Watershed Assessment and Improvement (NPDES) | 3,000,000 |
| Total Conservation and Open Space | \$4,643,400 |
| Public Works | |
| Monroe Avenue Extension | \$1,364,000 |
| Pavement Management Program | 7,820,562 |
| Ramp and Sidewalk Upgrades | 103,000 |
| Ridenour Way Extension | 1,155,000 |
| Small Drainage Structures | 210,000 |
| Gaither Road Over South Branch Patapsco | 96,000 |
| Hughes Shop Road Over Bear Branch Road | 40,000 |
| McKinstry’s Mill Road Projects | 236,002 |
| Patapsco Road Over East Branch Patapsco | 29,000 |
| Stone Chapel Road Over Little Pipe Creek | 50,000 |
| Woodbine Road Over South Branch Patapsco | 224,200 |
| Total Public Works | \$11,327,764 |
| General Government | |
| County Building Systemic Renovations | \$1,575,000 |
| Fire and EMS – Regional Water Supply | 160,000 |
| Generator Replacements | 150,000 |
| Total General Government | \$1,885,000 |
| Grand Total | \$36,864,164 |

EMS: emergency medical services
HVAC: heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
NPDES: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Source: Carroll County Government

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 833 (Carroll County Delegation) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Carroll County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2025

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