

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 285
Appropriations

(Dorchester County Delegation)

Budget and Taxation

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2013 - Dorchester County -
Cambridge Marine Terminal Redevelopment

This emergency bill changes the grantee of the Cambridge Marine Terminal Redevelopment project, as established by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2013, from the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) to the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Cambridge.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill shifts responsibility and general obligation bond funding for the Cambridge Marine Terminal Redevelopment from MEDCO to the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Cambridge.

Local Effect: The bill shifts responsibility and general obligation bond funding for the Cambridge Marine Terminal Redevelopment from MEDCO to the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Cambridge.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 424 of 2013 (the fiscal 2014 capital budget) authorized a grant of \$1.5 million to MEDCO for the design, construction, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of improvements and redevelopment of the Cambridge Marine Terminal, located in Dorchester County. The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board of Public Works by June 1, 2020. If any funds authorized remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1, 2020, the amount of unencumbered or unexpended authorizations must be cancelled.

Background: The Cambridge Marine Terminal Redevelopment project (originally known as the Sailwinds Wharf Development Project) is located on the Choptank River in Cambridge and is part of a larger plan to help revitalize Cambridge's economy. The main element of the project is the replacement of a wharf and bulkhead at the Cambridge Marine Terminal, most of which is in need of urgent, immediate repair. Cambridge advises that it erected a barrier around the wharf to protect the public from the wharf's failing structural integrity.

Cambridge further advises that replacement of the wharf and bulkhead is also necessary to stabilize surrounding structures that serve the public during music and festival events. As a result of the project, Cambridge hopes to see increased sail and power boat traffic, as well as increased tourism from those who generally bypass Cambridge on Route 50. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2015 capital budget includes \$1.0 million in general obligation bonds for the project.

MEDCO advises that it was listed as the grantee in order to help with the general redevelopment of the Cambridge Marine Terminal, although the scope of its role has never been clearly defined. Cambridge advises that it is in a position to shift the project into the design and engineering phase, and changing the grantee from MEDCO to the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Cambridge will give the city the flexibility it needs to advance the Cambridge Marine Terminal's redevelopment and repairs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 152 (Senator Colburn) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Maryland Economic Development Corporation, City of Cambridge, Department of General Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 20, 2014
mc/ljm

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