

# HOUSE BILL 621

B2

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CF SB 40

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By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2016

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt – Howard County – Environmental Education Center**  
3 **Renovation and Expansion**

4 **Ho. Co. 2–16**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$250,000, the  
6 proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Howard County  
7 Conservancy, Inc. for certain development or improvement purposes; providing for  
8 disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide  
9 and expend a matching fund; establishing a deadline for the encumbrance or  
10 expenditure of the loan proceeds; and providing generally for the issuance and sale  
11 of bonds evidencing the loan.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
13 That:

14 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on  
15 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Howard County  
16 – Environmental Education Center Renovation and Expansion Loan of 2016 in a total  
17 principal amount equal to the lesser of (i) \$250,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund  
18 provided in accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the  
19 issuance, sale, and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of  
20 the Board of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8–117  
21 through 8–124 and 8–131.2 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

22 (2) The bonds to evidence this loan or installments of this loan may be sold as a  
23 single issue or may be consolidated and sold as part of a single issue of bonds under  
24 § 8–122 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

25 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer and  
26 first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and delivering the

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then shall be credited on  
2 the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the Board of Public Works, for  
3 the following public purposes, including any applicable architects' and engineers' fees: as a  
4 grant to the Board of Directors of the Howard County Conservancy, Inc. (referred to  
5 hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the acquisition, planning, design, construction,  
6 repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Environmental Education  
7 Center, located in Howard County.

8 (4) An annual State tax is imposed on all assessable property in the State in rate  
9 and amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds, as and when due  
10 and until paid in full. The principal shall be discharged within 15 years after the date of  
11 issuance of the bonds.

12 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the  
13 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a matching  
14 fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either directly or indirectly,  
15 from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. The fund may consist of  
16 real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this  
17 Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets  
18 may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and  
19 the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2018, to present evidence  
20 satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If  
21 satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of the  
22 matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the amount of  
23 the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act. Any amount of  
24 the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the Board of Public Works  
25 shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

26 (6) The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board of  
27 Public Works for the purposes provided in this Act no later than June 1, 2023. If any funds  
28 authorized by this Act remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1, 2023, the  
29 amount of the unencumbered or unexpended authorization shall be canceled and be of no  
30 further effect. If bonds have been issued for the loan, the amount of unexpended or  
31 unencumbered bond proceeds shall be disposed of as provided in § 8-129 of the State  
32 Finance and Procurement Article.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
34 1, 2016.