

# SENATE BILL 917

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CF 8lr3496

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By: **Senator Ferguson**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt – Baltimore City – Pratt Street and Howard Street**  
3 **Plaza**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$250,000, the  
5 proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of Bromo Tower Arts &  
6 Entertainment, Inc. and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for certain  
7 development or improvement purposes; providing for disbursement of the loan  
8 proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching  
9 fund; establishing a deadline for the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan  
10 proceeds; and providing generally for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing the  
11 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 Baltimore  
16 City – Pratt Street and Howard Street Plaza Loan of 2018 in a total principal amount equal  
17 to the lesser of (i) \$250,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in accordance  
18 with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale, and delivery of  
19 State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board of Public Works and  
20 issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8–117 through 8–124 and 8–131.2 of the  
21 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  
27 bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then shall be credited on

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the Board of Public Works, for  
2 the following public purposes, including any applicable architects' and engineers' fees: as a  
3 grant to the Board of Directors of Bromo Tower Arts & Entertainment, Inc. and the Mayor  
4 and City Council of Baltimore (referred to hereafter in this Act as "the grantee") for the  
5 acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site  
6 improvement, and capital equipping of the Pratt Street and Howard Street plaza, located  
7 in Baltimore City.

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. No part of the fund may  
16 consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date  
17 of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or  
18 assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the  
19 matter and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2020, to present  
20 evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided.  
21 If 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, 2025. If any funds  
28 authorized by this Act remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1, 2025, 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, 2018.