

SENATE BILL 440

B2

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CF HB 235

By: **Senators Robey, Kasemeyer, and Kittleman**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2010

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Creation of a State Debt – Howard County – Watson Telescope Observatory**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$25,000, the
4 proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Howard
5 Astronomical League of Central Maryland, Inc. for certain development or
6 improvement purposes; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject
7 to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund;
8 establishing a deadline for the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan
9 proceeds; and providing generally for the issuance and sale of bonds evidencing
10 the loan.

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

13 (1) The Board of Public Works may borrow money and incur indebtedness on
14 behalf of the State of Maryland through a State loan to be known as the Howard
15 County – Watson Telescope Observatory Loan of 2010 in a total principal amount
16 equal to the lesser of (i) \$25,000 or (ii) the amount of the matching fund provided in
17 accordance with Section 1(5) below. This loan shall be evidenced by the issuance, sale,
18 and delivery of State general obligation bonds authorized by a resolution of the Board
19 of Public Works and issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with §§ 8–117 through
20 8–124 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and Article 31, § 22 of the Code.

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

24 (3) The cash proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the Treasurer
25 and first shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of issuing, selling, and
26 delivering the bonds, unless funds for this purpose are otherwise provided, and then
27 shall be credited on the books of the Comptroller and expended, on approval by the

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Board of Public Works, for the following public purposes, including any applicable
2 architects' and engineers' fees: as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Howard
3 Astronomical League of Central Maryland, Inc. (referred to hereafter in this Act as
4 "the grantee") for the planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of the
5 Watson Telescope Observatory, located in Marriottsville.

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

10 (5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the
11 purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the grantee shall provide and expend a
12 matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either
13 directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or
14 unappropriated. The fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds
15 expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount
16 of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the
17 Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final.
18 The grantee has until June 1, 2012, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of
19 Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is
20 presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of the matching fund to the
21 State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the amount of the matching
22 fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act. Any amount of the loan
23 in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the Board of Public Works
24 shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

25 (6) The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board
26 of Public Works for the purposes provided in this Act no later than June 1, 2017. If any
27 funds authorized by this Act remain unexpended or unencumbered after June 1, 2017,
28 the amount of the unencumbered or unexpended authorization shall be canceled and
29 be of no further effect. If bonds have been issued for the loan, the amount of
30 unexpended or unencumbered bond proceeds shall be disposed of as provided in
31 § 8-129 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 June 1, 2010.