

**D06E021A**  
**Ripken Stadium and Baseball Youth Academy – PAYGO**  
**Board of Public Works**

***Ripken Youth Baseball Academy – Camden Yards Replica  
(Harford)***

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<b>PAYGO GF</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>Recommendation: Disapprove</b>
<b>Nonbudgeted</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	

**Program Description:** Provide a grant to assist in the completion of phase III development of the Ripken Youth Baseball Academy in Aberdeen, Maryland. Phase III development includes the extension of the seating bowl for the youth-sized replica of Oriole Park at Camden Yards to accommodate 3,500 fans, construction of a bullpen area for pitchers, a retaining wall, an outfield concessions/picnic area, and the installation of a scoreboard.

**Comments:** The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$3.5 million. The \$2.5 million non-State portion is being provided by Harford County (\$1.25 million) and private fund raising (\$1.25 million). The proposed State contribution of \$1.0 million in general funds would provide just over 28% of the funds required to complete the project.

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

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## *Fund Data*

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### Authorization Request (\$ in Millions)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Prior Approp.</i>	<i>2007 Request</i>	<i>2008 Estimate</i>	<i>2009 Estimate</i>	<i>2010 Estimate</i>	<i>2011 Estimate</i>
General Funds	0.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Nonbudgeted	0.000	2.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7.000</b>	<b>\$3.500</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>

## *Issues*

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### 1. Is This a New Project or an Extension of the Old Project?

As shown in **Exhibit 1**, between fiscal 2000 and 2003, the State contributed a total of \$7.5 million to assist in the construction of a 6,000-seat minor league baseball stadium and youth baseball academy known as Ripken Stadium and Ripken Youth Baseball Academy. At the time, plans for the academy included the construction of six playing fields which replicate various major league stadiums; one of which included a youth-sized replica of Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) worksheet which was provided in support of the \$1.0 million fiscal 2007 general fund PAYGO allowance characterizes the construction of the Oriole Park replica as phase I and II which was completed using the \$7.5 million provided by the State, and another \$20 million provided by the City of Aberdeen, Harford County, and Tufton Professional Baseball, L.L.C. The Tufton Group was the representative group for Cal Ripken Jr. for the project. The funds requested for fiscal 2007 are characterized as contributing to phase III of the project which could be construed as an extension of the original project for which State funds have already been provided. Moreover, at the time the final State contribution to the Ripken Stadium project was authorized in the 2002 Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan (MCCBL), the General Assembly included language indicating that the authorization was to be the final State contribution to the project. Clearly, DBM believes the fiscal 2007 allowance would be used for a new project; the fund data included in the worksheet makes no reference to the prior authorized funds. **The Department of Legislative Services recommends that DBM provide an explanation as to why the budget language included in the 2002 MCCBL expressing that no additional State funds would be provided to support the construction of the Ripken Stadium and Ripken Youth Baseball Academy should not preclude the State from rejecting the proposed \$1 million fiscal 2007 allowance.**

**Exhibit 1  
State Funding for Ripken Stadium and  
the Ripken Youth Baseball Academy**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
2000	\$500,000	Provide a grant to the county executive and county council of Harford County for the design, construction, and equipping of a minor league baseball stadium.
2001	3,000,000	Provide a grant to the county executive and county council of Harford County for the design, construction, and equipping of the Ripken Stadium and Youth Baseball Academy, subject to the requirement that the grantee provide an equal and matching fund for this purpose. Further provided that the matching fund may include real property.
2002	3,000,000	Provide a grant for the Ripken Stadium and Youth Baseball Academy. \$1 million of the appropriation was restricted until such time that a team had been selected and named to play in the new stadium.
2003	1,000,000	Provide a grant for the Ripken Stadium and Youth Baseball Academy. <i>Language in the 2002 MCCBL provided that the authorization is the final State contribution to the project.</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>	

Source: Department of Budget and Management

***Recommended Actions***

	<u>Amount Reduction</u>
1. Delete funds for a grant to the Ripken Youth Baseball Academy. Language included in the 2002 Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan expressed that the State fiscal 2002 funds authorized to help fund the Ripken Stadium and Youth Academy would be the final State contribution to the project. The \$1.0 million grant proposed for fiscal 2007 does not appear to support a new project at the site but rather finish work not completed during initial construction.	\$ 1,000,000 GF
<b>Total General Fund Reductions</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>

*Analysis of the FY 2007 Maryland Executive Budget, 2006*