

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 741

(Senators Miller and Dyson)

Budget and Taxation

Appropriations

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Calvert County - Public Facilities Bonds

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This bill authorizes the Calvert County Commissioners to issue up to \$8,895,000 in general obligation bonds for the construction, improvement, or development of public facilities capital projects and any cost incurred by the county in connection with the projects. The date of maturity of the bonds cannot exceed 30 years.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Calvert County would receive up to \$8.9 million in bond proceeds. County debt service expenditures could increase by an estimated \$815,000 annually over a 15-year period.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Background:** Chapter 597 of 2007 authorized Calvert County to issue up to \$53.1 million in general obligation bonds. In addition, Chapter 105 of 2006 authorized Calvert County to issue up to \$26.1 million in general obligation bonds, while Chapter 54 of 2005 authorized the county to issue up to \$21.7 million in public facilities bonds. **Exhibit 1** shows the projects for which the county has currently planned appropriations.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Calvert County Public Facilities Bonds**  
**Fiscal 2008**

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Detention Center – Work Release	\$ 2,155,000
Prince Frederick Aquatic Center	1,840,000
Old Fairground Road Improvements	2,550,000
Appeal Convenience Center	<u>2,350,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,895,000</b>

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**Local Fiscal Effect:** Calvert County revenues could increase by up to \$8.9 million from bond proceeds. Annual debt service costs for the bonds could total approximately \$815,000. This estimate is based on a 4.47% interest rate and a 15-year term of maturity. To the extent that the bond issuance, interest rate, or term of maturity deviate from this assumption, expenditures would adjust accordingly.

At the end of fiscal 2006, Calvert County had approximately \$106.6 million in general obligation bonded debt, which represents approximately 1.3% of the county's assessable base and is around \$1,216 per capita. While the county does not have a legal debt limit, it advises that it does have debt affordability guidelines, such as keeping the ratio of debt to assessable base below 4.5% and having less than \$1,500 of debt per capita. Moreover, the county tries to keep debt service below 9.5% of general fund revenue. For fiscal 2007, debt service (\$12.2 million) comprised 6.2% of general fund revenue (\$195.1 million). The county currently has an AA rating from Standard and Poor's, an Aa2 credit rating from Moody's Investors Service, and an AA+ rating from Fitch Ratings.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None identified, although HB 467 is identical.

**Information Source(s):** Calvert County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2008  
mll/hlb

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