

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1234
Appropriations

(Delegate Williams)

**Prince George's County - Maryland Stadium Authority - Blue Line Corridor
Facilities**

This bill alters the definition of “Prince George’s County Blue Line Corridor (BLC) facility” to broaden the types of facilities for which the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) may issue bonds under its existing \$400.0 million authorization. Whereas a sports facility is specifically excluded from the definition under current law, the bill allows financing to encompass a sports facility – including a sports stadium, practice field, or team headquarters – as well as a market hall, a mixed-use development, a technology innovation center, and a facility related to commercial development and revitalization. The bill also retains the authorization for a facility in the corridor to be a convention center, an arts and entertainment amphitheater, and any other functionally related structures, improvements, infrastructure, furnishings, or equipment of the facility (including parking garages). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances as the amount of financing already authorized is unchanged; however, broadening the types of facilities that may be financed with the bonds allows the project to move forward as now envisioned.

Local Effect: The bill allows the project to move forward with the broader scope now envisioned. It does not materially affect operations or finances in Prince George’s County.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 61 of 2022 established the authorization for MSA to issue \$400.0 million in bonds for facilities in the Prince George’s County BLC. This corridor is an area in central Prince George’s County, the specific boundaries of which are designated by public local law, near the intersections of I-495 and Landover Road, Arena Drive, and Central Avenue. The types of facilities that may be financed are limited, by definition, to a convention center, an arts and entertainment amphitheater, and any other functionally related structures, improvements, infrastructure, furnishings, or equipment of the facility (including parking garages).

MSA must secure a written agreement with Prince George’s County identifying the roles and responsibilities of each party. To finance site acquisition, planning, design, and construction of a Prince George’s County BLC facility, MSA must notify the fiscal committees of the General Assembly and provide them with a comprehensive financing plan, as specified, and obtain the approval of the Board of Public Works (BPW) of the proposed bond issue, the financing plan, and the required agreement with Prince George’s County.

Chapter 61 also established the BLC Facility Fund as a continuing, nonlapsing fund administered by MSA to use as a revolving fund for financing a BLC facility and to pay expenses incurred by MSA that are related to that facility. Initially, and beginning in fiscal 2024, *up to* \$27.0 million was to be paid annually in two installments to the BLC Facility Fund from the State Lottery Fund, until the bonds that have been issued to finance BLC facilities are no longer outstanding and unpaid. However, Chapter 483 of 2024 established that \$27.0 million had to be transferred annually.

Additional Comments: In April 2022, the MSA Board of Directors approved a request from the Prince George’s County Executive to assist with the feasibility, design, and development of sports and entertainment facilities along the corridor. MSA subsequently negotiated a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the county. In January 2023, BPW approved the MOU that formally begins the *process* to issue the bonds. However, no bonds have been issued yet. Also, per that MOU, the county identifies the projects – which have changed slightly under a new county executive. Absent the bill and removal of the restrictions on the type of facilities, MSA cannot fund design or construction of the desired projects.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County; Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland Stadium Authority; Department of Legislative Services

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caw/ljm

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