



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT


Office of Audits and Investigations


October 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin 
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

FROM: Arian Albear 
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-062-2020 Issuance and Sale of General Obligation and Stormwater Management Bonds

CB-062-2020 (Proposed and presented by: Chair of the Council at the request of the County Executive)

Assigned to the Committee of the Whole

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BONDS for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Prince George's County, Maryland to issue and sell an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Seventy-Three million, Nine Hundred Eighty-Four thousand dollars (\$473,984,000) in aggregate principal amount of general obligation and stormwater management bonds . . .

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: Negative, in the form of debt service costs.

Revenues: None.

Indirect Impact:

Positive.

Legislative Summary:

CB-062-2020¹ was presented by the Chair of the Council at the request of the County Executive on September 15, 2020 and referred to the Committee of the Whole (COW). The Bill would authorize the County to issue and sell up to \$473,984,000 in aggregate principal amount of general obligation and stormwater management bonds to finance various County capital projects and constituent facilities approved in the FY 2021 Capital Budget and Program.² The estimates of such projects come from the Capital Budget and Program: Fiscal Years 2021-2026.³

Background/Current Law:

Pursuant to Section 823 of the Charter of Prince George’s County, “any borrowing to finance capital projects must be authorized by an existing law of the General Assembly of Maryland or by a law of the Council.”⁴ Each Bond Issue Authorization Ordinance shall include:

1. a statement of the purpose of the issue and capital projects that will be financed;
2. a description of each project (only if the portion financed is deemed sufficient to complete at least a usable portion of the project);
3. the estimated cost and the portion to be defrayed from sources other than the proposed bond issues;
4. the amount of the proposed issue;
5. a statement showing that the proposed issue is within the legal limitation of the indebtedness of the County;
6. the probable or average useful life of the project to be financed;
7. a statement of the tax or other revenues of the County pledged to the payment of the principal and interest on the bonds; and
8. a statement that the full faith and credit of the County are pledged to such bond payments.⁵

Additionally, pursuant to Section 323. – “Powers and Duties of the Council,” “The Council shall refer to a referendum of the voters of the County, at the ensuing regular congressional primary or general election, any act enabling the County to borrow money to finance capital projects ...[and u]nless the act or resolution so referred is approved by a majority of the voters at the referendum, the Council shall have no power to enact an authorizing ordinance pursuant to Section 823 of the Charter.”⁶

Resource Personnel:

Rushane Jones, Office of Management and Budget

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

CB-062-2020 authorizes the County to issue and sell up to \$473,984,000 in aggregate principal amount of general obligation and stormwater management bonds to finance various County capital projects approved

¹ [CB-062-2020](#).

² 2021 Fiscal Year Proposed Operating Budget. [Capital Improvement Program and Capital Budget](#), 2020.

³ [Proposed Capital Budget and Program: Fiscal Years 2021-2026](#).

⁴ Charter of Prince George’s County, [Section 823](#).

⁵ County of Prince George’s County, [Section 823](#).

⁶ Charter of Prince George’s County, [Section 323](#).

in the FY 2021 Capital Budget and Program. In addition to general obligation bonds, general obligation bond anticipation notes and general obligation refunding bonds are also authorized. The projects proposed to receive funding are listed Attachment 1 of CB-062-2020, and include projects from the Board of Education, the Department of Public Works and Transportation, the Memorial Library System, the Health Department, the Department of Corrections, the Circuit Court, the Police Department, the Fire/EMS Department, the Community College, the Office of Central Services, the Office of Information Technology, and the Stormwater Management District.

The total bond sales are broken down by division below:⁷

CATEGORY	PROGRAMMED FY 2021 BOND SALE
Board of Education	\$196,977,000
Department of the Environment	\$8,344,000
General Obligation Bonds	\$207,405,000
Stormwater Management Bonds	\$61,258,000
TOTAL	\$473,984,000

Fiscal Impact:

Direct Fiscal Impact

Enactment of CB-62-2020 will authorize the County to incur additional debt in the aggregate principal amount of \$473,984,000, plus interest on the general obligation bonds, necessary to carry out the intent of the Act. The additional debt and related interest and issuance costs associated with the proposed general obligation bonds, or bond anticipation notes, when issued will have a negative fiscal impact on the County to the extent of the total multi-year debt service costs. The amount of the negative fiscal impact is contingent upon the bond interest rate and the term of the bonds. The fiscal impact on the County for any refunding bonds should be positive if, and when, such refunding bonds are sold.

Indirect Fiscal Impact

The completion of the projects itemized in the bill would have a positive fiscal impact to the County as they would raise property values around the neighborhoods where the projects are constructed, increase commercial activity in the area around the project, and generally increase the aesthetics and desirability of the County.

Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget

Yes.

⁷ Attachment 1

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

Forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach me via phone or email.