

It is the intent of the budget committees to review the issue of technology centers during the 1995 interim. The committees wish to ensure that state funding of these centers is addressing the highest priorities in terms of providing the types of facilities that will advance the state's efforts to develop and expand the high technology sector of the economy. After reviewing the state's efforts in this area, the committees will be prepared to evaluate and review these and similar projects during the 1996 session. It is the intent of the committees to make the two projects deferred during the 1995 session the highest priority for funding during the 1996 session.

SECTION ~~3~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly declares that it is the public policy of this State to manage State general obligation bond debt in a manner that will maintain Maryland's AAA bond rating. The General Assembly further declares that legislative oversight, control, and review of all forms of State obligations is essential to maintenance of the State's existing bond rating and protection of the fiscal integrity of the State.

SECTION ~~4~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That before work may commence pursuant to any supplement to any appropriation contained herein, satisfactory assurance must be given to the Board of Public Works that the project can be completed with the aggregate of the funds herein and heretofore appropriated for the stated purpose.

SECTION ~~5~~ 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That with the approval of the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning, any appropriation for construction provided in this Act may be used to purchase capital equipment if the amount of the appropriation exceeds the amount required for construction expenses, including allowances for contingencies.

SECTION ~~6~~ 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That except as otherwise provided in this Act, before a State agency or institution named in this Act as responsible for an individual item may begin work with funds appropriated by this Act, the agency or institution shall provide satisfactory evidence to the Board of Public Works that the work described in the individual item can be completed with the funds specified for that item.

SECTION ~~7~~ 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That with the approval of the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning, any appropriation under the provisions of this Act that is in excess of the amount needed for a project may be credited to the Construction Contingency Fund created by Section 1 (3), Item 23.05.02(E) of the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 1992 and codified under Section 3-609 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, and provided that:

- (a) an appropriation may not be credited to the Construction Contingency Fund until a construction contract has been awarded; and
- (b) the balance of the Construction Contingency Fund may not exceed \$2,000,000; and
- (c) a summary report on the sources and uses of the Fund shall be submitted to the budget committees by January 1, 1996.