

matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of real property or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. The fund may consist of in kind contributions. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 2002, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2000.

Approved May 11, 2000.

CHAPTER 300

(Senate Bill 711)

AN ACT concerning

Public School Construction - Use of Solar Energy - Pilot Program

FOR the purpose of establishing a pilot program to use solar energy in ~~new school construction projects in the State; requiring a county board of education to include a certain use of solar energy in certain construction projects under certain circumstances; requiring a county board to submit a certain grant application to the Department of Education under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to arrange certain financing for the project under certain circumstances; funding the pilot program; authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations~~ public school buildings; requiring the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction to implement and administer the pilot program; requiring the Interagency Committee to encourage local boards of education to use certain solar energy systems for certain schools, develop certain procedures, and provide certain grants; authorizing a local board to apply to the Interagency Committee for certain grants; requiring certain local boards to pay certain costs; providing that certain savings shall remain with certain local school systems; requiring that certain public school construction projects be approved by the Board of Public Works; requiring the Interagency Committee and the Maryland Energy Administration to cooperate with, assist, provide technical assistance to, and advise school systems on certain matters; requiring the Interagency Committee to adopt certain procedures; and generally relating to the pilot program to use solar energy in ~~new school construction projects in the State public school buildings.~~