

O'Malley pitches \$500M capital budget increase

Baltimore Business Journal by Jimmy DeButts, Associate Editor

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 11:01am EST

Maryland Gov. [Martin O'Malley](#)'s fiscal year 2013 spending plan includes a \$500 million increase in the state's capital budget that he said will support more than 37,000 jobs.

O'Malley released details of his 2013 budget Wednesday morning. It includes a \$3.6 billion capital budget, up from the \$3.1 billion the General Assembly passed for fiscal 2012, which ends June 30.

The state's infrastructure and construction spending could result in an additional \$1.4 billion in local government and private-sector spending that would support another 15,000 jobs, O'Malley said.

Among O'Malley's construction and environmental protection allocations are:

- \$373 million for new construction and renovation of public schools, bringing the six-year total to \$2 billion;
- \$351.4 million in the traditional school construction program, including \$6.1 million for the Aging Schools Program;
- \$5 million for capital improvements at the Maryland School for the Blind;
- \$25 million for the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund;
- \$36.6 million to preserve approximately 8,100 acres through the Rural Legacy Program and state Open Space program;
- \$28 million in capital projects to improve the health of the bay by upgrading storm water infrastructure;
- \$23 million for State Park improvements green projects and upgrades; and,
- \$8 million for oyster restoration.

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