# Pawtucket Red Sox New Stadium Proposal 2018 - H 7290 and 7291

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee May 31, 2018

### Summary

- Proposed legislation to finance a new \$83.0 million stadium for the Pawtucket Red Sox: The Ball Park at Slater Mill with costs shared by City, State & Team
  - \$71.0 million bonds all parties
  - \$12.0 million equity from PawSox



### Summary

Recent Travel
Alternate Option
Other Changes
Further Potential Changes
Next Steps

### **Recent Travel**

- Bills introduced in 2017 Assembly session
  - 2017 H 6366 & 2017 H 6367
  - 2017- \$ 989 & 2017 \$ 990
  - Senate had extensive hearing process over several weeks in the fall
  - House also had fall hearings on proposal
    - Member inquiry
    - Public comment
  - No action taken on those bills

### **Recent Travel**

### 2018 - S 2001 & 2018 - S 2002

- Amended versions of the 2017 bills
  - Reflect response to feedback and issues raised in the review
- Memorialized pledges and agreements
  - Ticket price freeze
  - Ancillary development
  - Shifts resources to City
  - Maintenance plan
- Passed Senate January 16
  - Duplicate versions: H 7290 and H 7291

# Financing: 2017 - H 6366

	Series A	Series B	Series C
Payer	PawSox	State	City
Principal	n/a		
Net Proceeds (millions)	\$33.0	\$23.0	\$15.0
Max Interest Rate	5.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Capitalized Int., Debt Service Reserves, Issuance Costs	Noted as excluded from net proceeds but not limited		
Max total cost	Not addressed		
Term	Not to exceed 30 years		
Туре	Taxable Tax Exempt		
Est. Annual Debt Service (millions)	\$2.1	\$1.4	\$0.9

# Financing: 2018 - H 7290

	Series A	Series B	Series C
Payer	PawSox	State	City
Principal	\$33.0	\$23.0	\$15.0
Max Interest Rate	Not Specified – but capped total cost to impose limit – assumes 4.0% & 5.0% like prior		
Capitalized Int., Debt Service Reserves, Issuance Costs			
Max total cost	\$41.0	\$26.0	\$18.0
Term	Not to exceed 30 years		
Туре	Taxable or Tax Exempt		
Est. Annual Debt Service (millions)	\$2.8	\$1.8	\$1.4

# Financing: 2017- H 6366 & 2018 - H 7290

- Similar owner lease arrangement to McCoy
  - PRA substituted for City of Pawtucket
  - Long term lease covers all aspects
    - Payments
    - Facility Use
    - Operation & Maintenance



### Financing: 2018 - H 7290

### State of RI Series B

#### \$23.0 million

Debt Service: Up to \$1.8M Payable from: State revenues generated by ballpark users, visitors, the team & ancillary development

Source	PIT	Sales	Total
Pawsox	\$1.2	\$0.3	\$1.5
Visiting	\$0.4	\$0.4	<b>\$0.8</b>
Total	\$1.6	\$0.7	<b>\$2.3</b>

# Financing: 2018 - H 7290

- 2018 version retains the same basic structure and strategy
  - Use power of the state's good credit to reduce the cost of the borrowing for all parties
  - The price for that low cost debt is the potential that state taxpayers would be called upon to cover unmet obligations
- Is an alternate approach workable?
  - Goal of the draft Sub A

- Framework for a different financing
  - Not a resolution for debt approval
    - No debt service limits identified
    - More extensive underwriting process needed
- Merged language from H 7291/S 2002 empowering redevelopment agencies
  - Allows PRA to issue bonds for this project
- New language
  - Clarifying land acquisition
  - Enabling language on PRA property tax

- Framework for a different direction addresses the key issue that emerged
  - Reluctance to allow the state to be the ultimate recourse for bondholders on the \$71 million of debt proposed
  - Existing plan relies on that to keep interest costs low
    - Any plan that moves off that concept will be more expensive if comparing best case scenarios

- Tax increment financing or TIF
  - Pledge of new revenues often property taxes to finance a new project
  - Create TIF district in which revenues will be pledged
  - There can be different types but these are very common in municipal projects with property tax revenue
    - Easily measured
- Newer concept includes more tax types

- Special revenue bonds
  - Secured <u>only</u> by the identified revenue stream
    - Usually revenues of project being financed
  - Non-Recourse
    - If the revenues are inadequate to pay the revenue bonds, the <u>issuer has no further</u> <u>obligation to pay the bonds</u>
  - Subject to extensive underwriting process to determine creditworthiness
    - Priced accordingly

### Coverage is key factor

- Evaluation to see if income exceeds debt
  - Higher coverage on projects like these
- Interest rate depends on coverage level
- The more money you can demonstrate above the cost the lower the rate will be
  - Additional work will have to be done to determine likely revenue stream and necessary coverage rates --- and ultimately the cost of the debt

### Framework

- Defines project cost and team expectations
  - Consistent with prior versions
- Defines revenue sources that will support the bonds
  - Different from prior versions because these are no longer suggestions as the source
  - These revenues must be segregated and deposited in a fund to support the debt

### Framework

- Retains much of the language added in the Senate adopted version
  - Green Building Standards
  - Fair Labor Standards Compliance
  - Public Park Facilities
  - Commitment to 50,000 sq. ft.

- State is no longer a lessee
  - Payments no longer pass through the state
  - Removes state obligation with it
- PRA long term lease
  - Payments support debt issued for Team's obligation

#### Lessor (Owner)

#### Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency



# **Other Changes**

- New section 4 similar to the "quicktake" provisions from existing Commerce Corporation statute
  - Makes land acquisition process more practical
  - Eliminates ambiguity under current law that the owner may have to be paid 150% instead of 100%

# **Other Changes**

- New Section 5 allows the Pawtucket City Council to waive the PRA from paying property taxes
  - This is something Providence Redevelopment has had since the late 1990s
  - Project becomes more expensive without this provision

### **Further Potential Changes**

- The plan to identify the state revenue stream needs further refinement
  - Right now it identifies sources via General Laws reference to personal income and sales tax in the Ball Park District

This includes the ball park and adjoining parcels

- Empowers Governor and Department of Revenue to work out the details
  - Additional guidance should be added on how this is determined

### **Further Potential Changes**

- Additional provision for redeeming bonds early to reduce cost and coverage could be included
- Other elements are expected to be spelled out in the lease agreement and bond documents
  - What should be included in legislation
  - Any limits or other guidance?

### **Further Potential Changes**

- H 7290 Sub A is enabling
  Further work would be required <u>after</u> <u>adoption</u>
  - Extensive underwriting process
    - Study of coverage
    - Identification of funding amounts

### Next Steps

- This hearing is beginning of a vetting process for this concept
- Next steps include:
  - Review of testimony
  - Further discussions with city and team

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