

### General Provisions.

1904, art. 25, sec. 1. 1888, art. 25, sec. 1. 1860, art. 28, sec. 1. 1874, ch. 411.  
1906, ch. 249. 1910, ch. 664 (p. 85).

1. The county commissioners of each county in this State are declared to be a corporation and shall have full power to appoint road supervisors, collectors of taxes, trustees of the poor, a clerk to their board, and all other officers, agents and servants required for county purpose not otherwise provided for by law or by the constitution, and they shall have charge of and control over the property owned by the county, and over county roads and bridges, and whenever in their opinion the public interests require or will be thereby advanced, may commit the whole matter of grading and constructing public roads and the repairs thereof, and the construction and repairs of public bridges to the charge of competent and scientifically educated civil engineers, who shall direct and manage all such public works under the immediate control of said county commissioners, and who shall hold office for such time, with such salary, under such bond and subject to such regulations as may be directed by the said county commissioners from time to time, and calculated to secure competent officers and a faithful discharge of duty; provided that the person appointed to act as attorney for the county commissioners in Cecil county, under the provisions of this section shall receive the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars per annum in full compensation for all services rendered by him as such attorney to said board of commissioners for Cecil county.\*

#### Authority of county commissioners.

County commissioners have limited authority and persons dealing with them are charged with knowledge of the extent of their powers. Their charters need not specifically designate every act they may do, nor every officer they may appoint. It is the duty of the county commissioners to assess unassessed lands for taxation; hence, they may employ a person to make abstracts of title of unassessed lands, and if his report is adopted, or, being received, ought to be adopted, they must pay for it. *Tasker v. Garrett County*, 82 Md. 153.

The county commissioners can only perform acts expressly or impliedly permitted by their charter. *Peter v. Prettyman*, 62 Md. 571.

The county commissioners have discretion to determine which public roads at any time need repairing, etc., and the amount to be expended. *Blundon v. Crosier*, 93 Md. 358.

Under this section, the county commissioners may provide by an agreement for the construction, grading and bridging of a road to the *satisfaction of the roads engineer*. *Riggs v. Winterode*, 100 Md. 444.

Under this section, the county commissioners may appoint all other officers, etc., required for county purposes in addition to those provided for by the constitution or acts of assembly. *Washington County v. Nesbitt*, 6 Md. 470.

Under this section, the county commissioners may contract for a fireproof vault in which to keep court records. *Smith Fire Proof Co. v. Monroe*, 97 Md. 371.

A local law providing for the appointment of a treasurer for Carroll county, held not to operate to impair or diminish the powers of the county commissioners under this section. *Frownfelter v. State*, 66 Md. 84.

\*As to St. Mary's county, see acts 1908, ch. 381. As to Somerset county, see acts 1908, ch. 443, and 1910, ch. 274 (p. 1119). As to Prince George's county, see acts 1910, ch. 90 (p. 1039).