

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That two new sections be and they are hereby added to Article 25 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "County Commissioners", sub-title "General Provisions", said new sections to be known as Sections 2A and 2B, and to follow immediately after Section 2 of said Article, and to read as follows:

2A. (a) The County Commissioners of each county in this State, except Worcester, Kent, Caroline, Allegany, Prince George's, Washington, Somerset, Dorchester, Baltimore, Calvert, Wicomico, Anne Arundel, Cecil, Charles, Howard, Frederick, and St. Mary's Counties, in addition to, but not in substitution of, the powers which have been or may hereafter be granted them, shall have the following express powers:

(b) To acquire by purchase or condemnation real or leasehold property needed for any public purpose and to erect buildings thereon for the benefit of the County and to sell at public or private sale any real or leasehold property belonging to the County when no longer needed for public use, but no property shall be sold until such sale has been advertised for at least twenty (20) days before date of sale.

(c) (Franchises.) To grant franchises as provided under existing Public General or Public Local Laws.

(d) To provide for the appointment and removal of all county officers and employees except those whose appointment or election is provided for by the Constitution or Public General or Public Local Laws.

(e) To fix and prescribe the salary or compensation of all appointed officers and employees of the County, and to prescribe and provide for the payment of the traveling and other expenses of the State's Attorney, Sheriff, Judges of the Orphans' Court and of all other elected and appointed officers and employees of the County incurred in the performance of their official duties.

(f) To establish a merit system in connection with the appointment of all county officials and employees not elected or appointed under the Constitution or Public General Laws of the State.

(g) To establish and maintain a general system of pensions and retirement and group insurance for the benefit and advantage of its officers and employees, with necessary classifications and terms of admission.

(h) To provide for the prompt collection of all taxes due the County by authorizing discounts or imposing penalties.