

CHAPTER 431.

AN ACT to add a new section to Article 17 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1930 Edition), entitled "Prince George's County," sub-title "Hyattsville," said new section to be known as Section 513A of said Article and said new Section to empower the Mayor and Common Council of Hyattsville to settle claims and suits asserted against it for which the said Mayor and Common Council may be responsible by reason of the negligence or wrongful act of any of its officers or employees.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a new section be and the same hereby is added to Article 17 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1930 Edition), entitled "Prince George's County," sub-title "Hyattsville," to be known as Section 513A of said Article and to read as follows:

513A. The Mayor and Common Council of Hyattsville are empowered to settle, in their discretion, claims and suits, either at law or in equity, or whether such claim may be based upon a suit already instituted or not, whenever the cause of action or claim arises out of the negligence or wrongful act, whether of commission or omission, of any officer or employee of the Mayor and Common Council for whose negligence or acts the Mayor and Common Council, if a private individual, would be prima facie liable to respond to damages, irrespective of whether such negligence occurred or such acts were done in the performance of a municipal or a governmental function of the said Mayor and Common Council; provided, that in the settlement of any claim under the provisions of this section the Mayor and Common Council shall not pay to any claimant an amount in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00), and any settlement so authorized may be paid out of any money which the Mayor and Common Council may have in its general funds; provided further, however, that nothing herein contained shall be construed as depriving the Mayor and Common Council of any defense it may have to any suit whether at law or in equity, which may be instituted against it or to give any person, corporation, partnership or association, any right to institute any suit against said Mayor and Common Council which did not exist prior to the passage of this act; and provided, further, that no action taken by the Mayor and Common Council in an effort to effectuate a settlement of any claim or suit authorized to be settled by the provisions of this act shall be taken as an