

of any sum which may be necessary to pay and discharge the principal and interest of any loan which may heretofore have been obtained, or which may hereafter be obtained by such county, according to law, and to create a sinking fund to meet the liabilities thus incurred, and levy upon the property so subject to taxation from time to time such sums as may be necessary to provide therefor; as well as to collect from such property so subject to the levy such sums as may be necessary for the support and maintenance of the county government.

To provide for the prompt collection of all taxes due the county; and for the sale of real estate, as well as leasehold and personal property, for the payment of the same.

To rectify errors in the assessment of property; to provide for the reduction or abatement of assessments improperly made, and for the reimbursement of moneys paid in consequence of such errors.

To levy and collect taxes for the organization, operation maintenance of libraries, fire and ambulance services, and other municipal services and to authorize the purchase, sale, construction, maintenance, and operation of all real and personal property necessary or incidental to such services, and to establish, modify, amend and abolish special taxing areas for any of the purposes enumerated in Article 25A, except that nothing herein contained shall be construed to permit the modification or abolition of existing special taxing areas performing municipal services, (other than furnishing fire protection or library service) and governed or administered by a Citizen's Committee or a Commission elected or appointed independently of the County Council.

To levy and collect taxes to provide for the payment of additional retirement or disability benefits to such former employees of the County as may, in the opinion of the County Council, be entitled to receive such additional benefits.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, and having been passed by a yea and nay vote, supported by three-fifths of all of the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly of Maryland, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 29, 1949.