

1] *October 15* in each year a detailed and itemized estimate of the amounts to be required for the operation of such agency during the ensuing fiscal year, classified in such form and containing such other information as the County Commissioners shall require from time to time. Such estimate shall be submitted under the oath of the official in charge of such agency that such estimate and the matters and facts contained therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief. Whenever referred to in this Act, "county agency" shall include the Board of County Commissioners and any officer, department, commission, board, bureau or other agency of the county and any institution receiving any appropriation from county funds.

52. (a) Before [May] *November 1st*, in each year, the County Commissioners shall prepare a proposed budget containing the items enumerated hereinbelow:

53. (a) In each year the County Commissioners, prior to adoption of the budget, shall, after public notice, hold a public hearing on the proposed budget. Public notice of the time and place of said hearing shall be given by publication once a week for two successive weeks in two newspapers of different political faith of general circulation in St. Mary's County. From [May] *November 1* to [June 1] *December 15* in each year, at least three or more copies of such proposed budget shall be available for public inspection at the office of the County Commissioners during all regular business hours.

(b) During the period from [May] *November 1st* to [June 1st] *December 15* in each year, the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County are hereby authorized and empowered to revise the proposed budget and any part thereof by increasing, decreasing, eliminating or adding items provided that there shall be no consolidation of items in such manner as to reduce the detailed statement of the appropriations. They shall further be authorized to revise the schedule of anticipated receipts and estimated rates for general and special taxes and assessments in such manner as they may deem necessary. Not later than [June 1st] *December 15* in each year, or on the first day thereafter, if [June 1st] *December 15* be a legal holiday, the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County shall by a majority vote adopt the final budget, schedule of anticipated receipts, fix general and special tax rates, and impose the levy for the ensuing fiscal year. Such levy together with any surplus county funds and all other reve-