

32-18.

The County Commissioners are hereby authorized to levy for each tax year commencing after the effective date of this act, a fire tax up to ten cents (10¢) on every one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of the assessed value of all real and personal property assessed for county tax purposes in Prince George's County, except the area of said county within the limits of the City of Takoma Park.

The said fire tax by this section if levied shall be collected in the same manner as other state and county taxes as the same are now levied and collected.

The proceeds of said fire tax collected each year shall be appropriated by the Board of County Commissioners for the employment of paid firemen, the acquisition or leasing of land or facilities and equipment or services which the Board of County Commissioners deem desirable for the protection of its citizens from fire hazards.

All full time firemen who meet the standards set out by the Prince George's County Merit Board and are certified by the Personnel Director as meeting these standards shall be county employees entitled to the provisions of the Merit System whether paid from funds of the county or funds from Volunteer Fire Companies.

The Board of County Commissioners may utilize employed firemen at such locations as they deem necessary or desirable and may enter into contracts with individual volunteer fire companies to determine the number of full time firemen to be paid from County funds and the number to be paid from Fire Company Funds with additional provisions for regulating the conditions of employment and the withholding of tax moneys due the fire companies for employment of personnel over and above those allocated by the Board of County Commissioners.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO LEVY FOR EACH TAX YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 1966, A SPECIAL FIRE TAX WHICH SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO THE FIRE TAX AUTHORIZED UNDER PREVIOUS SECTIONS OF THIS SUB-TITLE, UP TO TEN CENTS (10¢) UPON EACH ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSESSED FOR COUNTY TAX PURPOSES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, EXCEPT THE AREA OF SAID COUNTY WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK.

THE SAID SPECIAL FIRE TAX AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION, IF LEVIED, SHALL BE COLLECTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

THE PROCEEDS OF SAID SPECIAL FIRE TAX SHALL BE APPROPRIATED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF AT LEAST TWO ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME PAID FIREMEN IN EACH FIRE STATION VALIDLY IN EXISTENCE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, THE ACQUISITION OR LEASING OF LAND OR FACILITIES FOR NEW FIRE HOUSE SITES AND TRAINING FACILITIES, AND TO SUPPLEMENT FINANCIAL NEEDS OF FIRE COMPANIES BASED ON BUDGET REVIEW.