

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland.* That Section 56 of Article 77 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Public Education," subtitle "Chapter 5. County Board of Education," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

56.

The county board of education shall divide the county into appropriate school districts, shall keep full records of the boundaries thereof, and shall locate and maintain schools, as needed, within each district.

They are authorized and empowered with the approval of the State Superintendent of Schools, to purchase grounds, school sites or buildings, or to sell the same; to rent, repair, improve and construct school buildings, or approve contracts for so doing, when the plans conform to the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and are approved by the State Superintendent of Schools, as provided for in Section 40 of this article.

They shall employ an architect or architects on the recommendation of the county superintendent of schools to assist in the preparation of plans and specifications for remodeling old buildings and for constructing new buildings.

Except in *Allegany and Frederick Counties* [County], they may sell, with the approval of the State Superintendent of Schools, school grounds, school sites and school buildings when no longer needed for educational purposes. In *Allegany* [County] *and Frederick Counties*, the title to such grounds, sites and buildings no longer needed for school purposes shall vest in the County Commissioners and may be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of (except by gift) by [said] the County Commissioners.

The Board of Education of Howard County is authorized and empowered, subject to the limitations hereinafter set forth, to secure the services of attorneys at law to represent it in all legal matters affecting said Board and to contract for the payment of the fees of such attorneys in an aggregate amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) annually. The Board of Education of Howard County is further authorized and empowered, with the consent of the County Commissioners of Howard County, to contract for the payment of fees for such legal services over and above the aforesaid annual sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). When and as such fees shall become due and payable said Board of Education shall certify the same to the County Commissioners of Howard County for payment. Said County Commissioners are authorized and directed to pay such fees which shall have been contracted for and certified as hereinbefore provided and are further authorized to levy annually upon the assessable property of Howard County a sum sufficient to pay the aggregate of such fees.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1968.

Approved April 10, 1968.
