

2.

And be it further enacted, That the Board of Public Works is hereby authorized and ~~directed~~ EMPOWERED to have prepared proper certificates of indebtedness of the State in good and sufficient form to aggregate the amount of [six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000)] *eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000)*, INCLUDING LOANS BOTH HERETOFORE AND HEREAFTER ISSUED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT as evidence of such loan; such certificates of indebtedness shall bear date as of the time of their issue as provided in Section 1 of this Act. Each of said certificates shall be signed and countersigned in the manner prescribed by Section 3 of Article VI of the Maryland Constitution.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1971.

Approved May 28, 1971.

CHAPTER 760

(Senate Bill 306)

AN ACT to add new Section 13C to Article 35 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume and 1970 Supplement), title "Evidence," subtitle "Competency of Witness," to follow immediately after Section 13B thereof, providing that a character witness in any proceeding shall be permitted to give evidence to prove character based on personal opinion.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That new Section 13C be and it is hereby added to Article 35 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume and 1970 Supplement), title "Evidence," subtitle "Competency of Witness," to follow immediately after Section 13B thereof and to read as follows:

13C.

No WHERE CHARACTER EVIDENCE IS OTHERWISE RELEVANT TO THE PROCEEDING, NO person offered as a character witness WHO HAS AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR FORMING AN OPINION AS TO ANOTHER PERSON'S CHARACTER shall hereafter be excluded from giving evidence based on personal opinion to prove character, either in person or by deposition, in any suit, action or proceeding, civil or criminal, in any court or before any judge, jury, magistrate or justice of the peace of this State.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1971.

Approved May 28, 1971.