

The State Superintendent of Schools is directed to authorize the Comptroller to withhold State funds from any county which fails to levy the amount of its share of the minimum program prescribed by law or which fails to meet the requirements of the law or of the State Board of Education regarding the operation of the county library.

(h) Libraries in operation before January 1, 1945, whose boards, by the terms of their charters or articles of incorporation are self-perpetuating or otherwise specifically constituted, are eligible for all benefits specified in this subtitle provided they meet all other requirements under this subtitle and their boards may continue to be constituted as in the same manner before.

177.

(a) A Public Library Incentive Fund, created as of July 1, 1964, is continued for the purpose of granting aid to the counties and the City of Baltimore to finance debt service and/or pay-as-you-go capital outlay expenditures for the purchase of land for libraries, the purchase and construction of library buildings, remodeling and adding to library buildings, and the purchase of equipment and furniture for such library buildings. "Debt service" for the purposes of this section is the term used to describe the interest and amortization charges paid annually over a period of years to retire bonds issued for these purposes.

(b) The Public Library Incentive Fund for each county shall be equivalent to the sum of fifty cents (50¢) multiplied by the population of the county or Baltimore City. The population figures used in this determination shall be based on the latest federal census and in intervening years on estimates by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as of July 1st of the previous calendar year. The State percentage share of this Fund shall be the same as that used for the current expense aid in Section 176 of this Article.

(c) In order for a county or Baltimore City to participate in the Public Library Incentive Fund in any year, it shall provide sufficient funds from local sources for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section equivalent to the county or Baltimore City percentage share at the current expense aid in Section 176 of this Article. Funds received by a board of county commissioners, or county council, or the mayor and city council of Baltimore, from any source other than the State of Maryland, and applied to the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section, shall be treated for the purposes of this section as funds from local sources. If the total amount to be expended for the purposes in subsection (a) is less than 50¢ per capita then the State's participation shall be limited to its percentage share of the total amount expended.

(B) EACH OF THE COUNTIES AND BALTIMORE CITY SHALL PARTICIPATE IN ANY YEAR IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY INCENTIVE FUND CREATED BY THIS SECTION IF IT LEVIES FOR THAT YEAR, FOR THE PURPOSE SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, ONE-HALF CENT (½¢) ON EACH HUNDRED DOLLARS OF THE VALUATION OF PROPERTY ASSESSABLE AT THE FULL RATE FOR COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR AS REPORTED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESS-