

~~ments or other assessments (if any) levied against non-exempt property to finance the water or sewerage systems.~~

~~(h)~~ (G) If a political subdivision decides to exercise its powers under this section to establish rates, charges or assessments for its services or decides that any modification of an existing rate, charge or assessment previously established by the political subdivision is necessary or desirable, the political subdivision shall promptly after its decision give notice of the proposed rates, charges or assessments in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the political subdivision owns or operates its water or sewerage system. The political subdivision shall thereafter conduct a public hearing on the necessity or advisability of the proposed rates, charges or assessments. If a political subdivision acquires an existing water or sewerage system (either public or private), the rates, charges or assessments to be imposed by the political subdivision on the persons served by the acquired system shall be treated as the establishment of a rate, charge or assessment within the meaning of this section.

~~(j)~~ (H) This section is intended, and shall be deemed, only as additional and supplemental authority to political subdivisions to exercise the powers granted hereby. Nothing contained in this section shall be in any way construed as invalidating any procedures heretofore initiated or completed by any political subdivision or as limiting, modifying or amending in any way the provisions of existing law, whether public general or public local.

~~(i)~~ (I) The provisions of this section are severable, and it is the intention to confer the whole or any part of the powers herein provided for, and if any of the provisions of this section are held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of the court shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions of this section. It is declared to be the legislative intent that this section would have been adopted had the unconstitutional provision not been included therein.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1972.

Approved May 26, 1972.

CHAPTER 628

(House Bill 1480)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 35(b) of Article 77 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), and to add new Section 36B to Article 77 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume, 1971 Supplement) all titled "Public Education," subtitle "Chapter 4—County Boards of Education," to follow immediately after Section 36A thereof, to provide for the composition, election, salary, powers and duties of the Board of Education for Howard County and matters generally relating thereto.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 35(b) of Article 77 of the Annotated Code of Mary-