

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 25 - County Commissioners

9C.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY, IN ADDITION TO, BUT NOT IN SUBSTITUTION OF, THE POWERS WHICH HAVE BEEN OR MAY HEREAFTER BE GRANTED THEM THE COUNTY, AND IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS BORROWING POWER, SHALL HAVE FULL POWER AND AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE PURCHASE OR LEASE ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY, BY PURCHASE OR LEASE, PURSUANT TO A MULTIYEAR CONTRACT REQUIRING THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAKE INSTALLMENT OR RENTAL PAYMENTS CONCERNING DURING 2 OR MORE FISCAL YEARS; TO INCUR INDEBTEDNESS AND PAY INTEREST ON--ANY DEFERRED AS PART OF ANY INSTALLMENT OR RENTAL PAYMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT; AND TO PLEDGE AND ASSIGN THE PERSONAL PROPERTY PURCHASED OR LEASED PURSUANT TO ANY CONTRACT TO SECURE THE COUNTY'S OBLIGATIONS THEREUNDER, PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

(1) FUNDS SUFFICIENT TO PAY ALL AMOUNTS DUE UNDER THE CONTRACT DURING THE FIRST FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE CONTRACT IS EXECUTED EFFECTIVE ARE ARE OR WILL BE AVAILABLE AND HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATED AND CAN BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE; AND

(2) THE CONTRACT INCLUDES A TERMINATION PROVISION WHICH PERMITS THE COUNTY TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT IF FUNDS SUFFICIENT TO PAY ALL AMOUNTS DUE UNDER THE CONTRACT FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR ARE NOT APPROPRIATED FOR THIS PURPOSE FOR SUCH FISCAL YEAR. HOWEVER, THE CONTRACT MAY PROHIBIT PROVIDE THAT TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT TO PURCHASE OR LEASE SIMILAR OR FUNCTIONALLY RELATED EQUIPMENT. SHALL BE INEFFECTIVE IF THE COUNTY PURCHASES OR LEASES PERSONAL PROPERTY SIMILAR OR FUNCTIONALLY RELATED TO THAT PURCHASED OR LEASED UNDER THE CONTRACT WITHIN A PERIOD OF TIME AFTER TERMINATION, AS SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT;

(3) THE CONTRACT PROVIDES THAT, ABSENT A DEFAULT IN PAYMENT BY THE COUNTY UNDER THE CONTRACT, ANY OBLIGATION TO PAY AMOUNTS DUE UNDER THE CONTRACT SHALL BE LIMITED TO FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THIS PURPOSE FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR; AND

(4) THE CONTRACT PROVIDES THAT, IN THE EVENT OF DEFAULT IN PAYMENT BY THE COUNTY UNDER THE CONTRACT, ANY OBLIGATION TO PAY AMOUNTS DUE UNDER THE CONTRACT SHALL BE LIMITED TO FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THIS PURPOSE FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR, AMOUNTS REALIZED FROM THE PERSONAL PROPERTY PURCHASED OR LEASED UNDER THE CONTRACT, AND ANY OTHER FUNDS LEGALLY AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE.