

The following enumerated express powers are granted to and conferred upon any county or counties which hereafter form a charter under the provisions of Article [11A] XI-A of the Constitution, that is to say:

(S) To pass any ordinance facilitating the amendment of the county charter by vote of the electors of the county and agreeable to Article [XIA] XI-A of the Constitution.

The foregoing or other enumeration of powers in this article shall not be held to limit the power of the county council, in addition thereto, to pass all ordinances, resolutions or bylaws, not inconsistent with the provisions of this article or the laws of the State, as may be proper in executing and enforcing any of the powers enumerated in this section or elsewhere in this article, as well as such ordinances as may be deemed expedient in maintaining the peace, good government, health and welfare of the county.

Provided, that the powers herein granted shall only be exercised to the extent that the same are not provided for by public general law; provided, however, that no power to legislate shall be given with reference to licensing, regulating, prohibiting or submitting to local option, the manufacture or sale of malt or spirituous liquors.

#### Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

35A.

The General Assembly hereby declares as its legislative intent and purpose the protection of children who have been the subject of abuse by mandating the reporting of suspected abuse, by extending immunity to those who report in good faith, by requiring prompt investigations of such reports and by causing immediate, cooperative efforts by the responsible agencies on behalf of such children.

(d) Each such report made pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) shall be made to the agencies as provided for hereinafter, both orally and in written form; both the reports to be made as soon as is reasonably possible in the circumstances, but, in any case, the written report must be made within forty-eight (48) hours of the contact, examination, attention or treatment which disclosed the existence of possible abuse. The oral report shall be made either by telephone or direct communication to the local department of social services or to the appropriate law-enforcement agency. The agency to which the report is made shall immediately notify the other agency. Nothing however, shall prohibit the local department of social services and the appropriate law-enforcement agency from jointly agreeing to cooperative arrangements. The written report required to be made shall be made in all cases to the local department of social services and a copy sent to the local State's attorney.