

(a) The County Commissioners shall give public notice each year before adopting or taking final action upon the county budget for the ensuing year. This notice shall be by advertisement in [two] 2 newspapers published in the county, at least once in each of two weeks, and shall give notice that at a stated time and place, not less than [two] 2 weeks in the future, the board will meet in public hearing to permit any resident of the county to appear and testify concerning the budgetary appropriations and allowances for any department or agency of the county government.

(b) With the exception of land acquisitions, any single purchase or contract involving an expenditure, in whole or in part, of county funds which exceed [\$1,000] \$5,000 shall be purchased by a bid procedure from the lowest responsible bidder after public notice inviting proposals has been given by the County Commissioners. The notice shall be by advertisement in [one or more] 2 newspapers published in the county for a period of [three] 2 consecutive weeks prior to the reception of bids. The notice shall state that in not less than [three] 3 weeks in the future, the Board will meet in public session to receive bids for the purchase or contract. The notice shall state also the time for and the place of the meeting. However, in the event of circumstances deemed by the County Commissioners to constitute an emergency, they may proceed with the purchase or contract without following the procedure established above in this subsection. At the same time in this event they shall explain in a public statement the circumstances deemed to constitute the emergency AND SHALL PUBLISH IN 2 NEWSPAPERS IN THE COUNTY FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS THE REASONS FOR THE EMERGENCY SITUATION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1983.

Approved May 10, 1983.

CHAPTER 275

(House Bill 1408)

AN ACT concerning

Calvert County - Public Notice Publication Requirements

FOR the purpose of altering the newspaper and consecutive week publication requirements for an increase in dog license fees in Calvert County; altering the newspaper and consecutive week publication requirement for dog leash ordinances; altering the consecutive week publication requirement for new plumbing rules and regulations; and generally relating