

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the County Commissioners of Washington County are hereby authorized and empowered to prepare plans, or to adopt plans prepared by the Board of Education of Washington County, for a five-year program of school building construction and improvement. The program shall make provision, before any other work, for all necessary alterations, improvements, and additions to the Winter St. Elementary School in Hagerstown; the North St. Elementary and High School in Hagerstown and the Washington St. Junior High School in Hagerstown. The program shall also include such plans as the County Commissioners deem necessary to construct, alter, recondition and enlarge other school buildings in Hagerstown and Washington County, and to furnish and equip the same for school purposes, including the purchase of land, if necessary.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in each of the fiscal years beginning in 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950 the County Commissioners of Washington County are hereby authorized and empowered to levy and collect taxes in an amount not exceeding \$100,000 per year, to cover all expenditures for said school construction and improvement program. The amount so collected shall be set aside in a special fund to be known as the "School Improvement Fund", and shall be expended only for the purposes set forth in this Act.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all money in the School Improvement Fund shall be deposited in a separate and special account in some bank or banks, savings institution or institutions or trust company or companies by the said Board of County Commissioners of Washington County at the best rate of interest obtainable, and the said money shall be paid out only on checks, signed by the President of the said Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, countersigned by the Clerk of said Board.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the said Board of Education of Washington County shall award the contracts for the construction, alteration, repair, addition and equipment of the school buildings hereinbefore mentioned as well as other school buildings in the City of Hagerstown and in Washington County, Maryland, and for all equipment and supplies for the same to the lowest responsible bidder therefor after the said Board shall have had competitive bids submitted to it; provided, however, that the said Board shall have the right to reject any and all bids. Said Board of Education shall require the successful bidder or bidders to whom said contracts are awarded to make a contract in writing for the faithful performance of the work and said contractors shall