

AN ACT to encourage the Silk Culture at the Poor's-house in Charles County.—1838, ch. 160.

**Preamble.** WHEREAS, the employment of the inmates of the poor's-house, in Charles county, has heretofore been unavoidably laborious and unprofitable; *And whereas*, it is believed that the silk culture will give them a less laborious, a more healthful, and under a judicious system of management, a more profitable employment, and enable that institution ultimately to defray its own expenses; therefore,

**Levy §125.** SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the levy court of Charles county, be, and is hereby authorized and required, to levy upon the assessable property of said county, at the time of laying the annual levy of said county, for the present year, the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, to be collected and paid over to the trustees of the poor for said county, to be by them expended as herein after provided.

**Loan authorized.** SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That the said trustees are hereby authorized and required, as soon after the passage of this act as practicable; provided they have not in their hands that amount unappropriated, to borrow the sum of one hundred dollars, until such time as the levy and collection, herein before authorized, shall have been effected, and to purchase therewith, as many morus multicaulus trees, or cuttings, as can be obtained for that amount, and cause the same to be planted and cultivated, on the lot attached to the poor's-house aforesaid, by the inmates thereof, under the direction of the keeper of that institution.

**Interest provided for.** SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the remaining twenty-five dollars to be levied, as required by the first section of this act, shall be applied to the payment of the interest which may accrue on the sum borrowed as herein before authorized, and to purchase such books or papers, as may afford the necessary information, in regard to the silk culture.

**Books, &c.** **Cocoonery.** SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That if at any time hereafter, the levy court of Charles county, upon the recommendation of the trustees aforesaid, shall think it expedient to do so, they are authorized and empowered, to levy upon the assessable property of said county, a sum of money sufficient to fit up a part of the poor's-house aforesaid, or to build and fit up a suitable house for a cocoonery, and for the purchase of a reel or reels, and such other implements as may be deemed necessary, and the said trustees are hereby authorized to allow to the keeper of the poor's-house aforesaid, whose duty it shall be to superintend the silk culture aforesaid, such per cent. on the profits arising therefrom, as they in their judgment may believe his extra services shall be worth.

**Compensate keeper.**