

CHAPTER 227.

AN ACT for the better protection of Slaveholders in the several counties therein mentioned.

Distributed under 'Public Local Law,' and will be arranged to the several counties which are embraced by the law.

DECEMBER, 1818.—CHAPTER 88.

AN ACT to authorize the Judges of the Court of Appeals to extend the time of their Sessions on the Eastern Shore.

Repealed by 1828, ch. 182.

CHAPTER 89.

AN ACT to regulate the manner of obtaining and altering Public Roads in this State.

Other laws are, 1823, ch. 120; 1829, ch. 234, 238.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* County courts, on petition, to appoint three commissioners to determine whether road should be opened, &c.
 That it shall and may be lawful for the several county courts in this state, upon petition to them, by any person or persons interested in opening, straightening or shutting up, a public road in such county, and sufficiently describing in the said petition the road proposed to be opened, straightened or shut up, to issue a commission to three commissioners, freeholders in such county, and not related to any of the parties interested, nor holding lands through which the said road is proposed to be opened, straightened or shut up, authorizing and requiring the said commissioners, or any two of them, to meet on the premises, and examine and determine whether the public convenience requires that the said road should be opened, straightened or shut up; and if in the judgment of the said commissioners the public convenience does require the said road to be opened, straightened or shut up, the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall, in case the application shall be for opening or straightening a road, proceed to locate the same, in such manner as will in their judgment best promote the public convenience, and they shall cause a plot of the same, and also of the old road, where the application shall be to straighten or shut up a road, to be made out, and shall return the same, together with a full report of their proceedings, under their hands, to the county court from which the commission issued, and of the reasons on which their opinion is founded; and if the said commissioners shall be of opinion that the said road ought not to be opened, or straightened, or shut up, they shall report their opinion to the county court aforesaid, together with the reasons on which the same is founded.

By 1823, ch. 120, authority is vested in the court to establish a public landing, and this power is also vested in the levy courts, where they are clothed with the power to open public roads.