

SEC. 37. The General Assembly shall pass no Law providing for payment by this State, for Slaves emancipated from servitude in this State; but they shall adopt such measures, as they may deem expedient, to obtain from the United States, compensation for such Slaves, and to receive, and distribute the same, equitably, to the persons entitled.

SEC. 38. No person shall be imprisoned for debt, but a valid decree of a court of competent jurisdiction or agreement approved by decree of said court for the support of a wife or dependent children, or for alimony, shall not constitute a debt within the meaning of this section.¹

SEC. 39. The books, papers and accounts of all banks shall be open to inspection under such regulations as may be prescribed by law.²

SEC. 40. The General Assembly shall enact no Law authorizing private property to be taken for public use without just compensation, as agreed upon between the parties, or awarded by a jury, being first paid, or tendered to the party, entitled to such compensation.

SEC. 40A. The General Assembly shall enact no law authorizing private property to be taken for public use without just compensation, to be agreed upon between the parties, or awarded by a jury, being first paid or tendered to the party entitled to such compensation, but where such property is situated in Baltimore City and is desired by this State or by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, the General Assembly may provide for the appointment of appraisers by a Court of Record to value such property, and that, upon payment³ the amount of such valuation to the party entitled to compensation, or into Court and securing the payment of any further sum that may be awarded by a jury, such property may be taken.⁴

SEC. 40B. The General Assembly shall enact no law authorizing private property to be taken for public use without just compensation, to be agreed upon between the parties or awarded by a jury, being first paid or tendered to the party entitled to such compensation, except that where such property in the judgement of the State Roads Commission is needed by the State for highway purposes (the General Assembly may provide that such property may be taken immediately upon payment therefor to the owner or owners thereof by said State Roads Commission or into

¹ Thus amended by Chapter 14, Acts of 1950, ratified Nov. 7, 1950.

² Thus amended by Chapter 151, Acts of Sp. Sess. of 1936, ratified Nov. 3, 1936.

³ The word "of" evidently omitted.

⁴ Added by Chapter 402, Acts of 1912, ratified Nov. 4, 1913.