

CHAPTER 117.

AN ACT to add a new article to the Code of Public General Laws of 1904 of the State of Maryland, to be known as Article 33A, "Eminent Domain—Regulating the Procedure for the Acquisition of Property for Public Use by Condemnation," and providing that the proceedings therefor shall be before a jury in court instead of before a sheriff's jury.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That there is hereby added a new article to the Code of Public General Laws of 1904 of the State of Maryland, to be known as Article 33A, "Eminent Domain—Regulating the Procedure for the Acquisition of Property for Public Use by Condemnation," and providing that the proceedings therefor shall be before a jury in court, instead of before a sheriff's jury, and to read as follows:

ARTICLE XXXIII A.

Eminent Domain—Regulating the Procedure for the Acquisition of Property for Public Use by Condemnation.

1. The proceedings for the acquisition of private property for public use shall be as follows:

2. The proceedings shall be begun by the filing of a petition in the Circuit Court for the county in which the property sought to be condemned is situated, on the law side thereof, or in one of the law courts of Baltimore City, if such property is situated in Baltimore City, by the State, municipal or other corporation, commission, board, body or person seeking to have the property condemned, and against the owner or owners thereof, and the husbands and wives of married owners.

In case any owner or owners is or are not known, he or they may be described in such petition as the unknown owner or owners or the unknown heir or heirs of a deceased owner. The petition shall set forth a description of the property sought to be acquired, sufficient for identification; a statement of the purpose for which the same is sought to be condemned, and that the petitioner is unable to agree with the owner or owners thereof; or that one or more of said owners is or are under some legal disability to contract, unknown or non-resident, whichever may be the fact or facts; and the said petition shall contain a prayer that the said property may be condemned.