

CHAPTER 532.

AN ACT to repeal section thirty-eight (38) of Article seventy-seven (77) of the Code of Public General Laws of 1904, title "Public Education," sub-title "School Houses and Sites," and to re-enact the same with amendments.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That section thirty-eight (38) of Article seventy-seven (77) of the Code of Public General Laws of 1904, title "Public Education," sub-title "School Houses and Sites," as the same is numbered and set forth in the Code of nineteen hundred and four (1904), be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted so as to read as follows, to wit:

SEC. 38. When the lands shall be required for the site of a school house, or for enlarging a school house lot, or for play grounds, or other school purposes, and the Board of County School Commissioners shall from any cause be unable to contract with the owner or owners thereof upon what it deems to be a fair valuation thereof, the Board of County School Commissioners may apply for a writ of *ad quod damnum* to the clerk of the Circuit Court for the county, who shall forthwith issue the same and the sheriff shall execute the said writ and return an inquisition describing the land and stating the amount of damages to be paid to the owner; and the judge of the Circuit Court for the county may, at any time after the return of the inquisition, in term or during recess, hear a motion to confirm such inquisition, on such notice to the parties as he may direct, and confirm or quash the same; and if he quashes the inquisition, he shall order a new one forthwith to be taken; but no lot so taken or enlarged shall exceed, in the whole, five acres, including the land occupied by the school building; provided, that the repeal and re-enactment of this section shall in no wise affect any proceedings begun and pending at the date of its passage, but any such proceedings shall be controlled by the law as it existed at the time of its institution thereof.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 11, 1912.

CHAPTER 533.

AN ACT to add an additional section to Article 22 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, title "Washington County," sub-title "County Commissioners," to be known as