

to grant and regulate franchises for electric light and gas companies, telephone and telegraph companies; all such franchises shall not be granted for a period of more than twenty-five years, and be renewable at discretion of the commissioners of Sharptown; to regulate the keeping of dogs in said town and provide for a tax thereon, and for the collection of the same; to provide for the killing of dogs on which no taxes are paid; to prevent the running at large of horses, cattle, hogs, geese and other fowl on the streets or in the limits of said town, and to regulate the keeping of same in said town.

SEC. 2. This act shall not impair or affect any right vested or acquired and existing at the time of the passage of this act; provided that this section shall not be construed to make irrevocable or irrevocable any right which before the passage of this act was repealable or revocable; nor shall this act impair, discharge or release any contract, obligation, duty, liability or penalty whatever now existing. All suits and actions, both civil and criminal, pending, or which may hereafter be instituted for causes of action now existing or offenses already committed against any law or ordinance repealed by this act, shall be instituted, proceeded with and prosecuted to final determination and judgment as if this act had not been passed. No tax or enforcement of the payment of the same before the passage of this act shall in any manner be affected by the passage of this act, and the mode of procedure in any such matter shall be the same as if this act had not been passed.

SEC. 3. All laws now in force relating or applicable to the Commissioners of Sharptown and not included in this act and not inconsistent with this act, and all ordinances of the Commissioners of Sharptown now in force and not inconsistent with this act, shall be and they are hereby continued until changed or repealed, respectively, by the General Assembly of Maryland, or the Commissioners of Sharptown.

SEC. 4. All officers provided for or named in the Charter of Sharptown or any amendments thereto, as it now stands before the passage of this act, whether by election or appointment, shall continue to hold, exercise and discharge the duties of their respective offices until their successors shall be duly qualified, and nothing contained in this act shall be construed to interfere with the continuity of the terms or tenure of said officers; nor shall a reappointment or re-election of any of said officers be necessary in order to secure the said continuity of their said terms and tenure of office, unless otherwise provided by this act.