

several counties under the provisions of Section 240 of Article 23 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Edition of 1924.

1931, ch. 539, sec. 24.

24. If any part or parts of this Article or of any section thereof shall be held to be unconstitutional, such unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of the remaining part or parts of this Article or of any section thereof. The Legislature hereby declares that it would have passed the remaining parts of this Article or of any section thereof if it had known that such part or parts thereof or of any section thereof would be declared unconstitutional.

See notes to sec. 13.

1931, ch. 539, sec. 25.

25. Whenever, for the purpose of building a new road or widening any existing road or crossing the tracks of any railroad, it shall become necessary to condemn any land or water or any interest in, under or over the same which the State Roads Commission is authorized to acquire under the preceding sections of this Article, it shall and may be lawful for said commission to proceed as follows: The commission shall cause to be prepared a preliminary report, with such plat or plats as may be necessary and showing: (a) The description, quantity and nature of the property to be taken; (b) the amount of damages awarded therefor; (c) the amount of benefits assessed to the adjoining land (which shall not exceed the damage awarded and costs of condemnation), and which in case of a railroad crossing shall be governed by the section of this Article for such cases provided; (d) the names of the persons interested in the property taken or benefited, with their respective estates and interests therein (and if any such estates or interests shall belong to the unknown heirs of any deceased owner, the report shall so state); (e) and the damages and benefits awarded or assessed to each. Upon completion of such report the State Roads Commission shall, by an advertisement inserted twice successively in one or more newspapers published in the county where the land lies, give notice to the parties interested (naming them) that such preliminary report is open to inspection at the office of the commission, and that during a period of fifteen days from the date of the first publication of such notice the commission will hear objections and make such corrections as may be proper. After the expiration of said period of fifteen days a final report, including such plat or plats as may be necessary, shall by the commission be deposited with the clerk of the circuit court for the county in which the property to be taken lies; and thereupon the commission shall, by advertisement inserted three times successively in one or more newspapers published in said county, give notice to the parties interested (naming them) that such final report has been deposited, and that after the expiration of twenty-one days from the date of the first publication the said report will become (and the same shall become) absolute and final as against all persons who shall not in the meantime have appealed therefrom to such circuit