

and the Eastern district shall be sub-divided into lots containing one hundred acres each. The position of said districts shall be clearly marked out in the maps, and the said lots shall be plainly numbered.

“Sec. 3. As soon as the maps mentioned in section 2 of this Act have been prepared, a competent person, scientifically trained, shall be employed by the Board of Public Works, to examine and report upon the relative value of the different portions of the area set apart for oyster culture by this Act. Upon the receipt of the report of said expert, the Board of Public Works shall divide said lots into three classes, with reference to what shall seem to them the value of said lots for oyster culture. The said lots shall be known respectively as ‘First Class, Second Class and Third Class’ lots.

“Sec. 4. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Board of Public Works to lease, in the name of the State of Maryland, the lots of land in the area indicated in this Act, provided that no lot or lots so leased to any person, or firm, shall contain more than one hundred acres; and no one person or firm shall be permitted by assignment or otherwise, to acquire a greater amount of land than one hundred acres. Such leases shall be made to bona fide and responsible bidders after the said districts or portions of the same shall be declared open for oyster culture. The term of such leases shall be twenty years, and the annual rent reserved to the State shall be a sum not less than three nor more than seven dollars per acre. The lessee of a lot or lots which will have been declared “first class” shall pay a yearly rental of seven dollars per acre, the lessees of “second class” lots shall pay five dollars per acre as yearly rental, and the lessees of lots designated as “third class,” shall pay three dollars per acre as yearly rental. Said annual rent shall be made payable at the end of each year to the Treasurer of Maryland. If any part of the rent reserved under such leases shall remain unpaid for more than sixty days after the same becomes due, such lease or leases shall become void and of no effect, the land shall revert to the State, and may be leased again in accordance with the provisions of this Act.