

to demand from each proposed lessee security for the first three years rent, to be approved by said Commissioners; the term of such lessees shall be twenty years and the annual rent reserved to the State shall be a sum not less than three nor more than five dollars per acre, to be decided within the said limits by the Commissioners in accordance with his judgment, of the value of the land leased; said annual rent shall be made payable at the end of each year to the Shell Fish Commissioners. 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 be declared void, and the land shall revert to the State, and may be leased again in accordance with the provisions of this Act. It shall then be the duty of the Shell Fish Commissioners to proceed at once against the surety or sureties of said lessee for any rent that may be in arrears.

“Sec. 8. And be it enacted, That for a period of three months after each of the maps hereinbefore provided for shall have been filed in the office of the Commissioners, citizens of Maryland, residing in any part of the State, who are owners of land having a water front upon any of the area therein indicated, shall have the exclusive right in the order of their application to lease any section, or portion of section, or portion of two or more sections, adjacent to their lands; and for an additional three months after the expiration of said period, all boatmen, residents of this State, who at the time of the passage of this Act, shall be actually engaged in the business of tonging, dredging or scraping for oysters, shall have the like exclusive right in the order of their application to lease any remaining lands in such districts: provided, that in no event shall any land owner or boatmen, or other person, be permitted to lease more than one hundred acres, of the land which is leased.

“Sec. 9. And be it enacted, That blank forms of application shall be furnished upon reasonable charge to be prescribed by the Commissioners to any person desiring the same. All such forms shall be printed, and shall be substantially in the following language: