

of the commission, keep accurate accounts of the financial transactions, have charge of its work in organizing libraries and improving those established, and in general perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned to the said secretary by the said commission. Said free library commission shall make a biennial report to the Governor. Nothing in this Act shall refer to or apply to Frederick, Queen Anne's, Garrett, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Charles, Somerset, Wicomico, Kent, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Worcester or Baltimore counties.

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SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 8, 1902.

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CHAPTER 368.

AN ACT to legalize and regulate the granting of franchises for public purposes by the County Commissioners of Baltimore County.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That no franchise or right in relation to any highway, avenue, street, lane or alley, either on, above or below the surface of the same, shall be granted by the County Commissioners of Baltimore county, until the following provisions shall be complied with :

Granting of franchises.

(1) The application for such franchise or right shall be published by the applicant once a week for three successive weeks in two newspapers published in Baltimore county and having general circulation, setting forth the location, character and extent of the franchise sought.

Advertised in newspaper.

(2) Upon the first publication of said notice it shall be the duty of the said board of County Commissioners to make diligent inquiry as to the money value of the franchise or right asked to be granted, and the adequacy of the compensation proposed to be paid therefor.

Inquiry to be made.

(3) If any objection is made to the granting of the franchise asked by any person or persons interested therein, either as taxpayers or having property-rights involved and filed in writing with the clerk of the board, before the expiration of said notice, opportunity shall be granted and a time set for the hearing of such objections.

Hearing granted.

SEC. 2. *Be it enacted*, If no valid objection is made to the granting of such franchise, and it appear to the said board that the granting of the same is expedient and proper, the said board shall have authority to grant such franchise

Franchise granted.