

**Chapter 376.**

AN ACT to authorize the county commissioners of Kent county and the county commissioners of Queen Anne's county to purchase the capital stock of the Chester River Bridge Company, and to provide for the payment thereof by levies on the taxable inhabitants of said counties, and to make said bridge a free public bridge or thoroughfare, and to appoint a keeper therefor, and to provide for the payment of the keeper's salary and keeping said bridge in repair, and to provide for taking the sense of the people of said counties preliminary to the exercise of the aforesaid powers.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the county commissioners of Kent county and the county commissioners of Queen Anne's county, or a majority of them respectively, are hereby authorized and empowered to negotiate with the stockholders of the Chester River Bridge Company, or their duly constituted agent, and purchase the capital stock of said bridge company at a price not exceeding the par value thereof, and provide for the payment thereof in one, two and three annual instalments, as may be agreed on, by levies on their respective counties in the proportions said respective boards of commissioners may agree upon between themselves as properly chargeable to their respective counties; and, upon the purchase and payment thereof, said commissioners shall have prepared and executed a deed from said bridge company for all the property, rights and franchises of said company to said Kent and Queen Anne's counties in the proportions of ownership, as shall be agreed on and established by their several boards of county commissioners in the purchase thereof, to be taken, held and perpetuated as a free bridge and public thoroughfare between said counties.

Authority to purchase.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That there shall be a keeper of said bridge, who shall be appointed