

20 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, title "Somerset County", sub-title "County Commissioners" to follow section 53 of said Article so as to make a uniform drainage law for Somerset County.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever the owner or owners of any swamp or low grounds shall deem it fit to have them drained, if the owners of said lands cannot agree, or should any be married women, infants, non compos mentis, or non residents of the county where swamp or low lands are situated, they or any of them may petition the County Commissioners, sitting in the county where such swamp or low lands or any part thereof are situated, for the appointment of commissioners to locate or lay out a ditch or ditches for the purpose; and who shall thereupon appoint a board of three or more commissioners to be composed of judicious and impartial freeholders, to be taken from the neighborhood or vicinity of said swamp or low lands.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the commissioners so appointed being first duly sworn to execute their duties faithfully and impartially, shall call to their assistance a skillful surveyor, sworn in like manner, and shall go upon and view the swamps or low grounds mentioned in the petition, and lay out, by specified courses and distances, breadths and depths such ditch or ditches as shall be sufficient to drain the said swamp or low grounds.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That they shall estimate the probable costs or expenses, including damages, if any, of cutting such ditch or ditches, and the sum or proportion thereof which each owner or possessor, or person benefited, shall be bound to pay.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That they shall make out and return to the County Commissioners, at their next meeting thereafter to which it may be practicable, a report in writing, under their hands, with a plat or map attached, containing a description by general delineation, without survey, of the boundary lines of the swamp or low ground mentioned in the petition, and also a delineation of each owner's or possessor's lot or parcel, with the estimated quantity of acres the same contain, with the name of every person to whom they may award damages, and the amount thereof, and the sum or amount each owner or possessor, or person benefited, shall be bound to pay