

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the State Roads Commission is hereby authorized and empowered immediately after the passage of this Act, to construct the National Defense Highway, as laid down by the Act of Assembly of 1916, Chapter 706, from the State Road at Camp Parole to the State Road at Bladensburg, connecting Washington City with Annapolis, and for so doing they shall use the money appropriated by said Act of the Legislature of Maryland of 1916, Chapter 607, and the money if already received by them, under the Act of Congress before any part of the Federal Aid money shall be used in the construction of the State Roads in Maryland, owing to the absolute necessity of said road as a war measure to connect the capital of the United States with its Naval Academy at Annapolis.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in constructing said road the same shall be commenced at the east end and west end at the same time; that is to say at Camp Parole and be built westward, and at Bladensburg built eastward according to the lines as laid down by the said Act of 1916, Chapter 706.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That if there should not be sufficient funds for the construction of the National Defense Highway after using said State appropriation of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars specified by the said Act of Assembly, to build said National Defense Highway, as well as from the money derived from the Federal Aid Act, there should be a gap or gaps or want of connection between the two lines of construction of said highway, that then the said State Roads Commission is hereby empowered and directed, first, to make use of any appropriation of money made by the General Assembly of 1918 for road construction in Maryland, from any surplus of general or special funds mentioned in the Budget Bill sent to both branches of this Assembly by the Governor of Maryland, or from any other money appropriated by this General Assembly for State road construction or maintenance of the same.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 18th, 1918.