

## CHAPTER 58.

AN ACT to authorize and empower the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown to acquire, by purchase, the plant of the Washington County Water Company, including all of its real and personal property, rights, privileges, waters, streams of water, waterways, watercourses, easements and franchises, at a price to be determined through a valuation of said plant to be made by the Public Service Commission of Maryland, to issue bonds to pay for the same, with power to enlarge and improve said plant and provide working capital therefor by issuing bonds in amounts necessary for said purposes, to authorize and empower the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown to operate said plant, to pass all ordinances, rules and regulations incident thereto, to assume, if desired, in the purchase of said plant, the present bonded indebtedness thereon, and to levy taxes for the payment of any deficiencies that may arise in the operation of said plant, for the payment of the interest on the bonds herein authorized to be issued or assumed, and for the redemption of said bonds, and directing the submission of the question of the purchase of said plant to the qualified voters of the City of Hagerstown at the regular election to be held on March 25, 1918, or at a special election to be held prior to May 1, 1918.

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown, that an enlarged and improved supply of soft and potable water, to be used by the citizens of Hagerstown for domestic, manufacturing, fire and other purposes, can be more promptly and adequately secured from a water system municipally owned and operated, than from one controlled by a private corporation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of The Washington County Water Company, which now furnishes water to the inhabitants of Hagerstown, did, by resolution dated the 29th day of December, 1917, express their willingness to sell the entire plant of said Company to the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown, at a valuation to be determined by the Public Service Commission of Maryland, conditioned, however, upon the agreement on the part of the said Mayor and Council of Hagerstown to accept the valuation so to be fixed by the Public Service Commission of Maryland as the price at which the question of the purchase of said plant should be submitted to the qualified voters of Hagerstown, and subject to the ratifica-