

fund; prohibiting assignments of claims for relief money and assignments of claims for injuries, disability or death against parties complying with this Act; exempting parties complying with this Act from suits for injuries, disability and death sustained by their employees, when relief has been accepted or sued for under this Act; and to add a chapter to the Public Local Laws of Allegany and Garrett Counties under the title of "Miners and Operators Co-Operative Relief Fund," and repealing Chapter 412 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland in the year 1902, in relation to the accidents in mining.

Whereas, it is the duty of the Government to provide sustenance in the case of helpless indigence to those who are or may become paupers and charges upon the public and is the settled practice of Governments to do so; and

Whereas, experience has shown that the occupation of coal and clay mining in Allegany and Garrett Counties is attended with peril peculiar to the occupation itself, and that a great number of employees in the mines, without estates and having large families and dependents are annually disabled or killed in consequence of injuries sustained in their employment and they and their families become objects of charity and charges upon the public authorities, and their infant children are unable to secure the proper support and education; and

Whereas, it appears that such injuries, disabilities and death occur with such regularity as to be susceptible of approximation in advance and are inherent in the occupation and a part of the business itself and the monetary loss therefrom ought to be charged up to the occupation and business; and

Whereas, sound policy requires that some provisions be made for the sustenance of the family and dependents of such injured or disabled employee and the widows and infant children and dependents of such employee when death results from such injuries; therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That there be and is hereby added to the Code of Public Local Laws, title "Allegany County," Article One, and title "Garrett County," Article Twelve, a new sub-title to be designated "Miners and Operators Co-Operative Relief Fund," to take the place of Chapter 412 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of the year 1902 (which last-named Act is hereby repealed), such sub-title to be and to read as follows:

SEC. 2. The word "operator" as herein used shall include every corporation, person, partnership or association engaged