

passage of this act, except that the President, Directors and Company of any such railroad, and the owner and Captain of any such steamboat, towboat or other vessel, shall have the benefit of the foregoing proviso in any suit brought, or hereafter to be brought, for any such offence already committed.

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CHAPTER 129.

Passed March 3, 1862. AN ACT to amend Article fifty-four of the Code of Public General Laws, so as to define and protect the rights of owners of lands bounding on the navigable waters of this State, and to prohibit the issuing of patents for lands covered by navigable waters.

Preamble. WHEREAS, Doubts are entertained in regard to the extent of the rights of proprietors of land bounding on navigable waters, to accretions to said land, and to extend improvements into said waters; for the purpose of solving such doubts, therefore,

Additional sections. SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That article fifty-four of the Code of Public General Laws, be amended by adding thereto the following sections, to wit:

Owners of land on navigable water entitled to accretions, &c. "Thirty-seven." The proprietor of land bounding on any of the navigable waters of this State, is hereby declared to be entitled to all accretions to said land by the recession of said water, whether heretofore or hereafter formed or made by natural causes or otherwise, in like manner and to like extent as such right may or can be claimed by the proprietor of land bounding on water not navigable.

Owners have exclusive right to make improvements. "Thirty-eight." The proprietor of land bounding on any of the navigable waters of this State, is hereby declared to be entitled to the exclusive right of making improvements into the waters in