

or her real estate free of any right of dower of any husband or wife therein, without the joinder of said husband or wife.

Section 4. This Act shall not be construed as abolishing the estates known as the dower of a widow and the dower of a surviving husband, but any party entitled to such right of dower shall be presumed to have waived and surrendered the same, and to have accepted the provisions of the Act, unless within the period of six months after the death of the spouse by virtue of whose ownership such right of dower attached, such surviving wife or husband shall file with the Orphans' Court or Register of Wills for the county or counties where such real estate is situate, a signed written election to take the dower to which she or he is so entitled by virtue of such inchoate right; in which case such surviving wife or husband shall be entitled to dower, but shall be considered to have renounced any other right in the real estate in Maryland of the deceased spouse in favor of the other heirs, to whom the same shall pass.

Approved April 18th, 1916.

CHAPTER 326.

AN ACT to confer additional powers upon the Circuit Courts for the several counties of Maryland relating to children who are now, or hereafter become dependents, neglected or delinquents; to define such terms and to provide for the treatment, protection, guardianship and care of such children, and to prescribe the procedure in such cases, to provide for the appointment of probation officers and for the payment of their salaries and expenses; to restrict and under certain circumstances take away the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace for the several Counties in such cases, and to prescribe the punishment for persons encouraging the dependency or delinquency, or neglecting the support, of minors or advising any minor to leave the custody to which he or she may have been committed.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That for the purposes of this Act, the words "dependent child" and "neglected child" shall be construed as meaning any male child under the age of twenty years, or any female child under the age of eighteen years, who for any cause is destitute, homeless or abandoned, or dependent upon