and they are further authorized and empowered to levy and collect a pro-rata front foot assessment against abutting property owners on the portion of the streets, alleys, or highways improved under the provisions of this Act for the remaining one-half of said cost; one-fourth of the whole cost of such improvements being apportioned among the abutting owners on one side of the street, alley or highway improved, and the remaining one-fourth being apportioned among abutting property owners on the other side of the street, alley or highway improved.

SECTION 2. The said Commissioners of St. Michael's shall provide by ordinance for assessing against property owners abutting on the streets, alleys and highways so improved as aforesaid, the portion of the cost of the said improvements to be paid by said abutting property owners, as hereinbefore provided, and for the collection of the same by the town collector of taxes as other assessments are levied and collected, and said property owners shall be permitted to pay the amounts assessed against their respective properties in equal portions in one and two years from the date of said assessments, the deferred payments to bear interest from said date.

SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency law, and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, and being passed by a yea and nay vote, supported by three-fifths of the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved March 26, 1920.

CHAPTER 149.

AN ACT to provide for the appointment of a commission to investigate the matter of leasing or erecting in the City of Baltimore a "State Office Building," and to report with recommendations to the Legislature of 1922.

WHEREAS, There are now existing, as part of the government of the State of Maryland, numerous Boards, Commissions and Departments, whose duties warrant the maintenance of offices in the City of Baltimore; and