

CHAPTER 573.

AN ACT to add eight new sections to Article 39-A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Forestry," to follow immediately after Section 22 of said Article, to be designated as Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 of said Article, so as to provide for the abatement of fire hazards along and adjacent to railroad rights of way.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That eight new sections be and the same are hereby added to Article 39-A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Forestry," to follow immediately after Section 22 of said Article, to be designated as Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 of said Article and to read as follows:

23. Every person, firm or corporation, operating a steam railroad within this State, using wood, coke or coal as fuel shall, between the first day of October of each year and the fifteenth day of April of the succeeding year, after the notice hereinafter provided shall have been given establish means for the prevention of forest fires along those parts of its tracks adjacent to which the State Department of Forestry shall have found that a fire hazard exists or will probably be caused by failure to take precautions. Where the State Department of Forestry deems other means insufficient there shall be cleared a safety strip of a width not to exceed one hundred (100) feet, as determined by the State Department of Forestry, measured horizontally from the outer rail. Notice of the necessity for a safety strip shall be sent by the State Department of Forestry to such person, firm or corporation not later than the first day of September of each year following the date upon which this act takes effect, such safety strip to be cleared by removing all dead wood, fallen leaves, withered grass and other inflammable material except fences and buildings, and manufactured products from the ground embraced within the width above prescribed. Provided that nothing in this section shall prevent such person, firm or corporation from piling and storing along its right of way any materials necessary for the construction, maintenance or operation of its railroad.

24. Every such person, firm or corporation shall have the power, subject to the provisions of Section 25 hereof, to clear such safety strips of inflammable material without liability for trespass, but shall not remove or damage, without compensation