

SEC. 2. *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 safety, and being passed upon a ye and nay vote supported by three-fourths of all 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 5, 1924.

CHAPTER 22.

AN ACT to purchase from Mrs. George W. Hodges ten thousand marriage references prior to the year 1777, and to deposit same in the Land Office of Maryland in card form.

WHEREAS, Mrs. George W. Hodges has accumulated a large number of marriage references, which have been extracted from the early records of the Land Office and of various counties; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has never compiled such records nor subscribed in any way for such compilation; and

WHEREAS, The value to the State of Maryland of such a compilation would be inestimable in saving the original records from the effects of constant handling and in prolonging their usefulness to the public; and

WHEREAS, Greater facilities would be afforded thereby in the study of Maryland history on genealogical lines, not only to resident Marylanders, but to residents of every State in the Union, inasmuch as Maryland lineage exists throughout the United States either directly or collaterally; therefore:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the Commissioner of the Land Office of Maryland be and he is hereby authorized and directed to purchase in the name of the State ten thousand marriage references prior to the year 1777, collected by and now in possession of Mrs. George W. Hodges. And it shall be the duty of the said Commissioner of the Land Office to receive said marriage references, when the same shall have been indexed in card form, arranged in alphabetical order to the second letter, and written in black letter ink with their proper references, and each marriage reference shall be cross-indexed; and the Commissioner of the Land Office shall cause the said cards to be