

part or parts of the Almshouse and Asylum farm and properties, and to give a good and sufficient deed for said farm or properties or any part or parts thereof so sold, to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, the authority and power conferred by this section to be exercised in the discretion of the said County Commissioners, or a majority of them, if the said County Commissioners sell all or any part or parts of said farm or properties the proceeds from said sale or sales shall be paid over to the County Treasurer of said county as a part of the general funds of the county.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1924.

Approved April 9, 1924.

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#### CHAPTER 384.

AN ACT to add a new section to Article 19 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, title "St. Mary's County," sub-title "Circuit Court," said new section to be known as Section 23-A and to follow immediately after Section 23 of said Article, providing for speedy judgments in certain cases.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That a new section be and it is hereby added to Article 19 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, title "St. Mary's County," sub-title "Circuit Court," said new section to be known as Section 23-A, to follow immediately after Section 23 of said Article and to read as follows:

23-A. In any action hereafter brought in the Circuit Court of St. Mary's County arising ex contractu, if the plaintiff or his agent shall file at the time of bringing his action an affidavit setting out distinctly his cause of action and the sum he claims to be due, exclusive of all set-offs and just grounds of defense, and shall serve the defendant with copies of his declaration and of said affidavit, he shall be entitled to a judgment for the amount so claimed, with interest and cost, forty days after such service unless the defendant shall file a plea which if in bar is accompanied by an affidavit of defense denying the right of the plaintiff as to the whole or some specified part of his claim specially stating also, in precise and distinct terms, the ground of his defense, which must be such, as would, if true, be sufficient to defeat the plaintiff's claim in whole or in part; and where the defendant shall have acknowledged in his affidavit of defense