

when in the opinion of said Commissions the purchase of existing bridges or the construction of new ones as aforesaid should be paid for in this manner, and to make such bridges and approaches thereafter free of toll; to provide for the payment of one-half of the cost of repair, operation and maintenance of such bridges from funds appropriated for the maintenance of roads and bridges in the State highway system.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the State Roads Commission of Maryland be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to join with the State of West Virginia, to purchase and acquire existing interstate highway bridges and approaches over the Potomac River or to erect new bridges over said river when in the opinion of said Commissions such action on their part to either purchase existing bridges or construct new ones, is necessary, and to pay one-half of the purchase price or the construction price thereof out of funds appropriated for the construction of roads and bridges in the State highway system, provided the State of West Virginia shall pay the other one-half. Title to such bridges and approaches so purchased or erected shall be vested jointly in the State of Maryland and the State of West Virginia, in each an undivided one-half interest.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the State Roads Commission of Maryland be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to provide for the charge and collection of tolls over said bridges and approaches so purchased or erected at such rate of toll as may be agreed on by said Commissions or which may be prescribed by any Board or Commission having power to fix such rates of toll, and for the application of the tolls collected, after the payment of the cost of collection, on the purchase price or cost of erection of such bridge or bridges and approaches thereto, until said purchase price or cost of erection and interest thereon is fully paid, provided that thereafter such bridges and approaches shall be free of tolls.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the State Roads Commission of Maryland be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to provide for the payment of one-half of the cost of repair, operation and maintenance of such bridge or bridges and approaches thereto, if such bridges are acquired or erected