

or she shall have convincing evidence, they shall appear before any Justice of the Peace in said County before whom they shall make oath in due form of law that they have lost sheep or turkeys as the case may be, and that they have reason to believe that the same were destroyed or injured by dogs not belonging to them or the members of his or her household; stating the election district wherein they reside, the time as near as possible when they believe the same to have happened, the reasons leading them to believe that the same was caused by dogs; that the sheep or turkeys, as the case may be, were the property of the affiant, and that he or she has never been reimbursed for the loss of same, and that they have no knowledge of any fact pertinent nor material to the loss, which if divulged would prejudice their rights to recover out of said fund, whereupon the Justice of the Peace and the affiant shall both subscribe their names to said affidavit the affiant paying said Justice of the Peace the sum of twenty-five cents therefor; and provided further that before any award of damages shall be paid under this Section, the owner of the sheep or turkeys destroyed or injured shall, within twenty-four hours after he, she or it has notice of such destruction or injury, notify the Sheriff of Howard County and acquaint him with the damage done and the location of the remains or carcasses of the sheep or turkeys so destroyed or injured. Within twenty-four hours after receiving such notice, the Sheriff or a deputy sheriff shall cause an inspection to be made and shall report his findings in writing to the County Commissioners within forty-eight hours thereafter, and said affiant having complied with the above mentioned requirements shall produce the above described affidavit before the County Commissioners at their next regular meeting day, or as soon thereafter as practicable, when he or she shall be examined by them as to the circumstances surrounding the killing or injuring of said sheep or turkeys so far as he or she shall have knowledge of the same, and if, in the opinion of the said County Commissioners, the claim shall be a just one, they shall give an order for the payment of the same according to the schedule of rates which they shall prescribe therefor, which schedule they shall have published in some newspaper printed in Howard County for at least once a week for three successive weeks, before the first day of June, 1914, and before the first day of April each and every year thereafter, which amounts in the cases of applications for the loss of sheep shall in no case exceed the value for which said sheep are assessed upon the assessment books of How-