

CHAP. 259.

CHAPTER 259.

Passed Mar. 22, *An act to enlarge the Powers of the Commissioners of Baltimore County.*
1838.

Preamble

WHEREAS, it appears the Commissioners of Baltimore county have no jurisdiction or authority, by law, to summons persons before them, to give testimony in cases of dispute between parties:—Therefore,

Case of dispute as to, &c.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That in all cases of dispute between contending parties, in regard to the opening of roads, either private, or of a public character, or the erection and repairs of bridges, public landings, or of damages, of whatsoever nature they may be, from the location or construction of any public improvements of any description whatever, that should properly belong to the jurisdiction of said commissioners, or rightfully come under their cognisance, it shall be lawful for the commissioners of said county to issue a summons to bring testimony before said commissioners when such witnesses may be demanded by either party, and after reasonable notice shall have been given to both parties, of the time of hearing testimony in the matter of controversy, that then the commissioners of said county shall proceed to take the testimony, except it shall appear that further time should be given for the convenience of the parties, then and in that case they may postpone the business until their next meeting, and in all cases, testimony shall be taken on oath, and the cost of such litigation shall be paid by the parties, as in like cases before the county court.

Authority to summons witnesses

Take testimony

May postpone

Right of appeal

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That in all cases as before mentioned, each party shall have the right of appeal to Baltimore county court.

Power to increase wages on roads to 75 cents

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the said commissioners shall, at their discretion, have power to increase the compensation allowed to laborers employed by supervisors to work on any of the public roads in said county, to any amount not exceeding seventy-five cents per day; *provided,* that no such increase shall be allowed to any slave or slaves employed as aforesaid; *and provided* the said compensation be equal and uni-