

proved by the clerk of the court of the respective county, or the Superior Court of Baltimore City.

(b) The said board members, in the performance of their duties, shall be under the jurisdiction of the said courts and shall be considered as officers of said courts. It shall be the duty of the local governing bodies to provide suitable space for the boards to meet, and the clerks of the several courts shall, whenever possible, provide suitable clerical assistance. If, from time to time, such assistance is not available the Commission shall, upon request of the board, provide such assistance. Each board so appointed shall select its own chairman and make its own rules not inconsistent herewith.

(c) It shall be the power and duty of said board to promptly hear all cases certified to it by the Commission and determine the amount of the award to be paid by the Commission and it shall also have the authority to determine what portion of said award, if any, shall be paid to any tenant, lessee, mortgagee, or other person having any interest therein. The board shall hear representatives of the Commission and representatives of the property owner and the owner if said owner desires to be heard. Each side shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel and each side shall have the right of cross-examination. After hearing the witnesses and counsel and reviewing the exhibits offered the board shall then view the property [effected] *affected* and promptly place a value upon the taking. Strict rules of evidence need not be adhered to in the hearings before the board; however, legal counsel for either side or the property owner, or a representative of the Commission may make an oral statement to the board at the conclusion of the view and before the board reaches its findings.

(d) When one or more members of the said board shall be disqualified, for any reason, from hearing and determining any case or is unable to be present, then the appointing authority shall designate another person or persons with similar qualifications as the absent member or members to so serve; all cases shall be heard and determined by a full board unless all parties involved agree to the contrary.

(e) In cases where the Commission determined that valid and marketable title cannot be obtained without a court proceeding, and the return of an inquisition by a jury, then and in those cases the board shall not hear and determine such cases, but same shall be filed as a condemnation case in the appropriate court as provided by law. In cases where some person having an interest in the property to be acquired is a nonresident of the State and will not accept service and agree to the board's jurisdiction said cases shall also be filed directly in the appropriate court for judicial determination.

(f) All cases certified to said board shall be disposed of and terminated not more than five (5) months after being certified to said board unless a longer period be agreed to in writing by both parties and approved by the chairman of said board, and in such cases the value of the property shall be determined as of the date of the filing of the plats and maps as aforesaid.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1960.

Approved March 23, 1960.