

WHEREAS, State Roads Commission figures now show that a substantial number of motorists by-pass this section of highway by using the Pennsylvania Turnpike north of this highway between Hancock and the Pennsylvania line in Garrett County and the figures further show that when the Interstate System of Highways is complete an even greater number of motorists will use Pennsylvania highways instead of this Maryland road between Hancock and the Pennsylvania line, and

WHEREAS, This diversion of traffic and the resulting loss of gasoline tax revenue is adversely affecting the amount of money the State Roads Commission has to spend for highway improvements and maintenance and in addition is working a hardship on the economic welfare of the western Maryland counties involved, and

WHEREAS, If affirmative and prompt action is taken to enhance and make more attractive this scenic and historic route the State Roads Commission will receive additional motor vehicle revenues and the areas of western Maryland traversed by this highway will, through increased traffic, receive great economic benefit, and

WHEREAS, A major means of accomplishing this desired result is to provide for the establishment of roadside parks and recreational areas adjacent to this section of highway in order to attract motorists and thus prevent the diversion of traffic, and

WHEREAS, This can be accomplished by cooperation between the State Roads Commission and the Department of Forests and Parks jointly working together in acquiring the land necessary for and the development of parks and recreational areas along this route; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 8A be and it is hereby added to Article 89B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "State Roads", sub-title "In General", to read as follows:

*8A. (a) In order to prevent further loss of gasoline tax revenue caused by the failure of a substantial number of motorists to use U. S. Route 40 between Hancock and the Pennsylvania line and in order to promote and enhance the economic welfare of the western-most counties of Maryland the State Roads Commission is authorized to acquire by purchase, gift or condemnation not more than ten parcels of land, each parcel not to exceed an area of twenty acres adjacent to or near U. S. Route 40 between Hancock in Washington County and the Pennsylvania line in Garrett County for the purpose of providing areas suitable for roadside parks and recreational areas, provided* REAL PROPERTY OR ANY INTEREST IN SUCH PROPERTY ADJACENT TO OR NEAR U. S. ROUTE 40 BETWEEN HANCOCK IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND THE PENNSYLVANIA LINE IN GARRETT COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AREAS SUITABLE FOR ROADSIDE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS, PROVIDED THAT SUCH AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE LIMITED TO TEN ROADSIDE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS EACH NOT TO EXCEED AN AREA OF TWENTY ACRES, AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT *no such area shall be acquired by the State Roads*