

MARYLAND, That Section 151 of the Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County being Article 19 of the Public Local Laws of Maryland (1965 Edition and 1974 Supplement, as amended) be and it is hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 19

151.

(a) The County Commissioners of St. Mary's County, [shall have the power] by ordinance or resolution, [of] MAY [condemning, laying out, opening, extending and making] CONDEMN, LAYOUT, OPEN, EXTEND AND MAKE new roads and [for altering, straightening, widening, grading, improving, or closing] ALTER, STRAIGHTEN, WIDEN, GRADE, IMPROVE, OR CLOSE up in whole or in part any existing road, and [for removing] REMOVE trees, posts and other obstructions, and [for building] BUILD or [laying] LAY out public bridges or drains, when in their opinion the public necessity or convenience requires the same, without any previous application or petition.

(b) The County Commissioners may contract with the owner or owners of the land for the purpose of laying out, opening, extending and making new roads, bridges or drains, or for altering, straightening, widening, grading, improving or for closing up in whole or in part any existing public road, bridge or drain, or for the right of way over the land necessary therefor if he, she or they be competent to contract; and [in case] IF the County Commissioners [shall so] contract IN THIS MANNER they shall cause a plat of the [said] road to be made, filed and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, with the deed or deeds conveying the land [so] acquired, [which] AND THE plat shall be referred to in and [shall be] IS a part of [said] THE deed or deeds, and the lands [so] conveyed [shall be and become] ARE thenceforth the property of St. Mary's County, and [be] subject to the purposes and uses for which granted.

(c) (1) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY CONSTRUCT AND IMPROVE ROADS AND DRAINAGE INCIDENT TO CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENT ON OR ALONG PRIVATE ROADS AFTER THE APPROVAL OF A PETITION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS WHOSE PROPERTY ABUTS ON THE ROAD TO BE CONSTRUCTED OR IMPROVED REQUESTING THAT THE ROADS BE TAKEN INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM. IN THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS GRANTED BY THIS SUBSECTION THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, BY PROPER ORDINANCE, PASSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 3 OF ARTICLE 25 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF THIS STATE MAY ADOPT ALL NECESSARY RULES AND CONDITIONS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS OR OTHER AUTHORIZED IMPROVEMENTS BY THE COUNTY. THE ORDINANCE SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE METHOD OF DETERMINATION OF THE ANNUAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS LEVIED AGAINST THE ABUTTING PROPERTIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF