

1812.

the proprietors of the said branch or swamp if the same could be effectually drained; and as it cannot be well accomplished without the aid of the legislature, by passing an act to secure the joint exertions of all the said proprietors: *And whereas*, It appears to this General Assembly, that it will be of public utility to extend the aid of the Legislature in order to accomplish so good an object: *Therefore*,

Directors to be elected—how—when—where—whom—a drain may be opened.

SEC. 1. BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall and may be lawful for the proprietors of the land, on the Betree Swamp, extending from the main road leading from Greensborough to Keen's Cross Roads, at and near Thomas Clendening's, down the said swamp until it intersects the great ditch or main branch of Tuckahoe Creek, to meet in each and every year hereafter at Thomas Clendening's, or at any other place which a majority of the proprietors shall appoint in Caroline county, and for such proprietors or a majority of those who shall attend at the said meeting, then and there annually to elect by ballot, five of the said proprietors for directors; who, when so elected and chosen, are hereby authorised and empowered, or any three of them, to make and open a drain or ditch down said branch from the main road near Thomas Clendening's till it intersects the main branch of Tuckahoe Creek aforesaid, in such direction and of such width and depth as they or a majority of them may judge most proper, not exceeding eight feet wide, to carry off the water from the said branch or swamp, and reduce the same to dry land; and the power and authority of the said directors so to be chosen, shall continue and be in force until the next annual election of directors.

Costs shall be paid by the respective proprietors.

2. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the costs, charges and expences of cutting and opening the said ditch or drain, shall be paid by the respective proprietors of the same, each paying for the cutting and opening the said drain or ditch through his or her land, except where it shall so happen that two or more of the said proprietors hold parts of the said branch through which the said ditch or drain shall be made, adjoining each other, part on one side thereof, and part on the other, in which case each shall pay in proportion to the part he or she shall or may hold.

Repairing and cleansing.

3. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said directors or any three of them, shall have full power and authority, at any time thereafter, to cut, open and