

CHAP. LXXI.

CHAP. 71.

An Act for draining a Branch on Chester River, commonly called and known by the name of The Unicorn Branch.

Passed Jan 23 1821
Proprietors of land to meet and appoint directors

1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall and may be lawful for the proprietors of lands lying on a branch of Chester river, known by the name of The Unicorn Branch, residing above a place where an old road crossed the said branch, from the farm formerly the estate of the late Aaron Merchant, to the lands of Aquilla Fogwell, to meet on the first Monday of April next, and on the first Monday of April in each and every year thereafter, at Dixon's tavern, or at any other place, which a majority of the proprietors may appoint, in Queen-Anne's county, and for such proprietors, when assembled at the place of meeting, then and there annually to elect, by ballot, three of the said proprietors for directors, who, when so elected and chosen, are hereby authorised and empowered, or any two of them, to make and open a drain or ditch up said branch, from the said road, in such direction and extent, width and depth, as they, or a majority of them, may judge most proper, to carry off the water from said part of the branch, and reduce the same to dry land, and the power and authority of said directors, so chosen, shall continue and be in force until a new election shall take place.*

2. *And be it enacted, That the costs, charges and expenses, of cutting and opening 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 own land, except where it shall so happen that two or more of the said proprietors hold part of the said branch or low grounds adjacent to, or which may be drained and improved thereby, or through which the said ditch or drain shall pass, 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 shall or may hold.*

3. *And be it enacted, That the said directors, or any two of them, shall have full power and authority at any time thereafter, to cut open and complete the said ditch or drain, and also from time to time to repair, cleanse and keep open, and in good repair, the said ditch or drain so to be opened and cut in virtue of this act, at the expense of the said proprietors, in the same proportion that the expense of opening and cutting the said ditch or drain in the first instance, and of repairing and cleansing the same, when cut and opened, the said directors, or any two of them, are hereby authorised to apportion what they may conceive the expense thereof will amount to, and demand and receive such proportions respectively from the said proprietors, before, or at any time after the commencement of said work, or after the same is finished; *Provided always,* that inasmuch as it may be inconvenient for some of the proprietors, through whose lands the said ditch or drain shall pass, to satisfy and answer the expenses of cutting and opening said ditch or drain at any time, the said directors, or any two of them, may make an estimate of the expenses of cutting the said ditch or drain through that part of the branch in which the said ditch or drain shall pass, and apportion the same as above directed, and that the same be paid by the pro-*