

money upon the taxable property of their respective counties, and each to pay annually the sum so levied to the Pocomoke Bridge Company, in consideration of the use, free from tolls, of the drawbridge of the said Pocomoke Bridge Company by all residents and non-resident taxpayers of Somerset County and all residents and non-resident taxpayers of Worcester County, their beasts and vehicles.

Whereas, the Pocomoke Bridge Company, a corporation incorporated by Chapter 14 of the Acts of 1865, under the powers therein conferred, has built and is now the owner of a drawbridge over the Pocomoke River connecting Somerset and Worcester Counties, it being the only bridge crossing said river south of Snow Hill; and,

Whereas, the said bridge is much used by the residents of both of the said counties, and from long use has become not only a convenience to the residents of both of said counties, but also has become essential and necessary to many of them in the transaction and prosecution of their business; and,

Whereas, by the terms of said Acts of 1865 and the decisions of the Courts thereon, the Pocomoke Bridge Company is entitled to charge tolls for all persons, beasts and vehicles crossing the said bridge; and,

Whereas, the public interests and the public convenience require that all residents of either of said counties and all non-resident taxpayers in either of said counties, their beasts and vehicles, shall pass over the said bridge free of all charge for tolls, and that in consideration of the free use of said bridge and to reimburse the Pocomoke Bridge Company therefor the County Commissioners of each of the said counties shall levy upon the taxable property of their respective counties a reasonable sum of money, to be paid to the said Pocomoke Bridge Company annually; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That if the Pocomoke Bridge Company shall accept the provisions of this Act as hereinafter specified, the County Commissioners of Somerset County be and they are hereby required to levy annually on the taxable property of the said county the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00), and they shall pay over the said sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) so levied on or before the first day of March next following its levy to the Pocomoke Bridge Company, and likewise that the County Commissioners of Worcester Company be and they are hereby required to levy annually upon the taxable property of said county the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), and to pay over the said one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) so levied