

parties to the proceeding. In any proceeding which involves the validity of a municipal ordinance or franchise, such municipality shall be made a party, and shall be entitled to be heard, and if the statute, ordinance, or franchise is alleged to be unconstitutional, the Attorney-General of the State shall also be served with a copy of the proceeding and be entitled to be heard.

12. (Construction.) This Article is declared to be remedial; its purpose is to settle and to afford relief from uncertainty and insecurity with respect to rights, status and other legal relations; and is to be liberally construed and administered.

13. (Words Construed.) The word "person" wherever used in this Article, shall be construed to mean any person, partnership, joint stock company, unincorporated association, or society, or municipal or other corporation of any character whatsoever.

14. (Provisions Severable.) The several sections and provisions of this Article except Sections 1 and 2 are hereby declared independent and severable, and the invalidity, if any, of any part or feature thereof shall not affect or render the remainder of the Article invalid or inoperative.

15. (Uniformity of Interpretation.) This Article shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those States which enact it, and to harmonize, as far as possible, with federal laws and regulations on the subject of declaratory judgments and decrees.

16. (Short Title.) This Article may be cited as the Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect on June 1, 1945.

Approved April 23, 1945.

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CHAPTER 725.

(Senate Bill 559)

AN ACT to authorize and direct the County Commissioners of Garrett County to appropriate and levy a certain sum