

ment of the United States those vessels belonging to the Maryland State Fishery Force which are suitable for guarding the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries within the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The said Commission has been assured that in the absence of emergencies growing out of said war, the said vessels will be permitted to remain in their respective districts and perform their ordinary duties and that the cost of operating said vessels, including wages and supplies, and necessary repairs will be borne by the Government of the United States.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the Conservation Commission of Maryland be and it is hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion, to lease to the United States of America any or all of the vessels of the Maryland State Fishery Force upon such terms and for such period of time as the Commission may determine, provided that the vessels so leased shall remain in the waters of their respective districts, and shall perform their ordinary duties as now prescribed by law, unless called out by the United States Government to meet emergencies which may arise during said war, and provided further, that the United States Government shall pay during the period of such lease the cost of operating the vessels so leased, including wages and supplies, and necessary repairs.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety, and being passed upon a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved June 27th, 1917.