

## STATE OYSTER POLICE FORCE

Sec. 39. *And be it enacted,* That the sum of twenty-two thousand dollars is hereby appropriated to purchase a suitable steam vessel and two tenders to be propelled by steam, sails, oars or otherwise, at the discretion of the Commissioners hereinafter named, said vessel and tenders not to exceed in cost this appropriation, and to arm and equip the same for the service hereinafter specified, to be styled the State Oyster Police Force, and the Governor, Treasurer, Comptroller, Superintendent of Labor and Agriculture, and the Clerk of the Court of Appeals shall constitute a Board to be styled the Commissioners of the State Oyster Police Force, and they are directed to purchase, arm and equip said steam vessel and tenders, and the Treasurer of the State, upon requisition of said Commissioners, and the warrant of the Comptroller is hereby directed to pay the sum or sums necessary, not exceeding this or any other appropriation hereinafter mentioned for the purposes specified.

Sec. 40. *And be it enacted,* That the Board of Commissioners for the State Oyster Police Force, shall have the power to appoint a suitable person to command said force, whose term of office shall be for two years unless sooner removed for incompetency or neglect of duty, and if said officer shall fail to discharge his duty; by reason of collusion with those interested in evading the law, he shall upon presentment, indictment and conviction, in a Court of law, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined, or imprisoned or both at the discretion of the Court.

Sec. 41. *And be it enacted,* That the commanding officer of said force be and he is hereby required to keep his vessel constantly cruising, when circumstances will permit, wherever opposition to the oyster law has arisen, or is likely to arise, within the boundaries of the State, and that every locality where a violation of the law exists, or is likely to arise, shall be visited as often as the duties of the force and the conditions of the vessel will permit, and that a monthly report shall be made to the Commissioners of all official action taken under the law, and a strict and careful journal kept of all duties performed, and the circumstances connected therewith. The salary of the chief officer shall be twenty-five hundred dollars per annum, which shall be paid to him monthly by the Treasurer upon the warrant of the Comptroller, and he shall have power to appoint one chief mate at twelve hundred dollars per annum, and who shall be a pilot; one second mate at six hundred dollars per annum; one chief engineer at twelve hundred dollars per annum; one assistant engineer at nine hundred dollars per annum; three men to act as firemen and coalheavers at twenty five dollars per month each; one steward and one cook, at twenty five dollars per month each, and as many seamen as the above Commissioners deem necessary at twenty dollars per month.

Sec. 42. *And be it enacted,* That said Commissioners are empowered and directed to purchase such arms and ammunition as shall be necessary to carry into effect the duties devolved upon the Oyster Police Force.

Sec. 43. *And be it enacted,* That the officers and crew aforesaid shall each receive one ration per day, in quality and quantity such as is allowed by law to the officers and crew of the Revenue Marine of the United States.

Sec. 44. *And be it enacted,* That the officers and crew aforesaid shall be paid by the Treasurer upon the warrant of the Comptroller, and the certificate of the commanding officer that their duty has been performed as required by law.

Sec. 45. *And be it enacted,* That the commanding officer shall have the authority to dismiss from said service any officer or other person under his command whenever, in his judgement, he interest of said service may require him to do so.

Sec. 46. *And be it enacted,* That the commanding officer aforesaid is hereby empowered to prescribe rules and regulations for the discipline of said Oyster Police Force, which shall be submitted to the Commissioners aforesaid for their consideration, and when duly approved by them, shall have the force of law and be binding upon the officers and crew of said force.

Sec. 47. *And be it enacted,* That in case of the death or permanent disability of the commanding officer aforesaid, the Commissioners aforesaid shall have the authority to fill the vacancy.

Sec. 48. *And be it enacted,* That to enable the said Commissioners to equip and put into service the Oyster Police Force, the sum of eight thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be deemed necessary, in addition to the sum of twenty-two thousand dollars hereinbefore mentioned, be and the same is hereby appropriated, which shall be paid by the Treasurer, upon the requisition of sid Commissioners and the warrant of the Comptroller.

Sec. 49. *And be it enacted,* That the Board of Commissioners shall have the power to keep said steamer and tender in suitable repair; and the Treasurer of the State, upon the requisition of said Commissioners and the warrant of the Comptroller, is hereby directed to pay the sum or sums necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

Sec. 50. *And be it enacted,* That the commanding officer of said force shall, before entering upon the discharge of his duties, take before the Judge of one of the Circuit Courts, the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and shall enter into bond to the State of Maryland in the sum of twenty thousand dollars, to be approved by said Judge, for the faithful performance of his duties, as prescribed by this Article.

Sec. 51. *And be it enacted,* That all the laws inconsistent with the provisions of this Act be and the same are hereby repealed.

Sec. 52. *And be it enacted,* That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved March 30, 1868