

Viewers.

Appeals to several courts.

owner or owners may present their petition to the court of quarter sessions in the county where the lands are located for the appointment of viewers to ascertain and assess their damages. The proceedings upon said petition and by the viewers shall be governed by existing laws relating to the ascertainment and assessment of damages for building county bridges. The county commissioners, or any other party to such proceedings, may appeal from the award of the viewers to the court of common pleas and shall be entitled to a trial by jury. From the judgment of the court of common pleas an appeal may be had to the Supreme or Superior Court, as in other cases. Such damages when ascertained shall be paid by the county in which the lands taken are located.

Section 5. This act does not repeal the provisions of any existing law relating to the building or rebuilding of inter-county bridges, but is intended as an additional method of accomplishing the same.

APPROVED—The 13th day of May, A. D. 1925.

GIFFORD PINCHOT.

No. 360.

AN ACT

To further amend section one and paragraph one of section two of an act, approved the seventeenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one (Pamphlet Laws, nine hundred eight), entitled "An act regulating the closing of public highways, and providing for the locating, marking, and maintenance of detours necessitated by such closing," as amended.

Highways.

Section 1 of act of May 17, 1921 (P. L. 908), amended.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That section one of the act, approved the seventeenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one (Pamphlet Laws, nine hundred eight), entitled "An act regulating the closing of public highways, and providing for the locating, marking, and maintenance of detours necessitated by such closing," as amended by an act, approved the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three (Pamphlet Laws, two hundred fifty-seven), entitled "An act to amend section two of the act, approved the seventeenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one (Pamphlet Laws, nine hundred and eight), entitled 'An act regulating the closing of public highways, and providing for the locating, marking, and maintenance of detours necessitated by such closing,' and providing penalties," is hereby amended to read as follows:

Closing to traffic.

Section 1. That, from and after the passage of this act, except in the case of emergencies wherein the safety of the public would be endangered, no public

road or highway in this Commonwealth [excepting State highways and State-aid highways,] shall be closed to vehicular traffic, except upon order of the authorities having charge of the maintenance of such highways, nor for a longer period than is necessary for the purpose for which such order is issued: *Provided, however, That no public road or highway shall be closed to vehicular traffic under order of the authorities having charge of the maintenance of such highway when the same has been designated as a detour by the Department of Highways unless the written consent of the Department of Highways has first been obtained or unless the authorities having jurisdiction over said road or highway shall by resolution, duly recorded on their minutes, declare such closing necessary for the protection of the public safety.*

Proviso.

Section 2. That paragraph one of section two of said act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Paragraph 1 of section 2 further amended.

When any public road or highway shall be so closed, it shall be the duty of the authorities authorizing the closing to immediately designate or lay out a detour, on which they shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained, while such detour is in use, legible signs, at each public road intersection throughout its entire length, indicating the direction to the main highway; and, during the period when such detour is in use, it shall be the duty of the authorities closing the main highway to maintain such detour in safe and passable condition; and they are hereby authorized to pay for the cost of such maintenance out of such funds as are available for the *construction and or maintenance* of the highways in their charge. It shall also be the duty of such authorities to immediately remove all detour signs when the highway originally closed is again opened for traffic. *The said authorities closing the main highway and maintaining the detour shall as soon as possible repair the said detour and place the same in a condition at least equal to that of the said road when it was designated as a detour, and the said authorities are hereby authorized to pay for the cost of the repair of such detour out of such funds as are available for the construction or maintenance of highways in their charge.*

Detours.

Signs.

Repair of detour.

APPROVED—The 13th day of May, A. D. 1925.

GIFFORD PINCHOT.