

affirmed before an officer authorized by law to administer oaths and affirmations.

1896, ch 89, sec. 42.

44. The commander-in-chief, within the limits of the appropriation by act of the general assembly, shall authorize the adjutant general to furnish the necessary arms and equipments to such regiments and separate organizations of the Maryland National Guard as are authorized by this article; and the commanding officer of each company or the officer receiving the same shall give a good and sufficient bond to the State of Maryland, to be approved by the adjutant general, for the safe keeping and return of such arms and equipments; and said arms and equipments shall remain and continue to be the property of the State to be used for military purposes only, and shall be returned to the State when called for by the commander-in-chief; provided, however, that all arms, ammunition, equipments or other supplies directed to be furnished by the governor under the provisions of this article shall be so furnished by contract made with the lowest responsible bidder upon public notice, unless an emergency shall require immediate action; and the officer making such contract shall certify the account with explicit vouchers and transmit the same, countersigned and approved by the governor, to the comptroller for final settlement in the mode and manner prescribed in the constitution for the audit and payment of claims against the State.

Ibid sec. 43.

45. Any officer receiving arms and equipments or other public property for military use shall be accountable for the same and shall not be discharged from his obligation therefor until he has properly accounted for said arms and equipments or other property, either by receipt from his successor in command or some other officer authorized to receive the same, for the articles received by him in good order and condition, reasonable use and wear excepted, or by satisfactory proof to the adjutant general that any article not so accounted for has been properly expended in the service, or defaced, injured, lost or destroyed, without any default or neglect on his part; and if lost, defaced or destroyed through the misconduct of any person, that reasonable efforts have been made by him to recover or prosecute for the same; and it shall be the duty of the adjutant general to enter suit on the bond of any officer, in the name of the State of Maryland, for the value of such prop-