

**CHAP. 610.** said county, who, after having given notice to the parties interested, shall proceed to hear the testimony and decide the case, and if his decision be in favor of the party locating said acres, said decision shall be recorded, and shall in all cases be conclusive evidence of title thereto; provided also, that if any stakes, bushes or buoys used as bounds shall be removed by accident or design it shall not excuse any person from wrongfully taking such oysters if he knew the grounds to have been located and appropriated; and any person wilfully or maliciously removing such stakes, bushes or buoys shall be liable to all the penalties of this Act, but any title or pretended title to acres, or otherwise contrary to this section, held or claimed by any person, is hereby declared to be fraudulent and void; provided, that no non-resident of this State shall be entitled to avail himself of the provisions of this section, whether he be sole or part owner of any land in St. Mary's county; and in case of the death of any citizen who may have located and appropriated any lot under the provisions of this section, his executors or administrators shall have the exclusive use, possession and control of such lot as fully as the person so dying had, for the purpose of protecting, cultivating and removing the oysters planted on said lot for the period of three years from the date of the death of the person appropriating such lot; and any person or persons taking or attempting to take oysters thus planted or bedded shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction before a justice of the peace trying the case, shall be fined a sum not less than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, and imprisoned in the house of correction for a period of three to six months; one-half of said fine to be paid to the informer and the other half to be paid to the County Commissioners for the use of the public schools.

**Six months possession a good and sufficient title.**

**Penalty for violation.**

**May increase their holdings.**

**96B.** Any person who shall have located on lots of ground within the waters of St. Mary's county not exceeding two acres, as provided in chapter 480 of the Acts of nineteen hundred, may increase his holdings to five acres, if he so desires, either by adding on to the original lot so held, or taking up separate lot; provided, said lots shall not in all exceed five acres, and that they shall be marked out and designed as hereinbefore provided.

**SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage, and that all Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved April 11, 1902.