

LAND RECORDS, INDEX TO.

AN ACT to authorize the making a general Alphabetical Index of the Land Records of Baltimore County, from the year seventeen hundred and ninety-nine inclusive, and to keep up such Index henceforth.—1831, ch. 86.

Preamble.

WHEREAS, to the land records of Baltimore county that have accumulated during the last thirty-four years, there is no general index, and the search for conveyances and ascertainment of titles to land is thus rendered very laborious, tedious and expensive; *And whereas*, the necessity of examining each volume of records in that period when titles are to be traced through a series of years, which often occurs, has subjected the volumes of those records to much wear, and in the end may make the transcribing of them requisite, which would prove a heavy charge upon the city and county of Baltimore; *And whereas*, the public interest requires that these evils should be remedied and for the future prevented; therefore,

Court authorized and directed.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the chief judge, for the time being, of Baltimore county court, be, and he is hereby authorized to contract with and employ the clerk for the time being, of said court, to make out a general alphabetical index of the land records of Baltimore county; beginning said index with the volume of said records marked W. G. number 54, and continuing the same with all such of said records as shall have been made, and all conveyances that shall have been received to be recorded up to the time of the passage of this act; and that the expense of making said index shall be borne and paid by the city of Baltimore and by Baltimore county, out of the limits of said city, respectively, in proportion to the assessable property in the same respectively; and to be levied as charges against said city, and against said county, by the commissioners of Baltimore county and the mayor and city council of Baltimore respectively.

Expenses.

Chief judge to direct the manner.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That said index shall be made under the supervision of said chief judge, and besides, being both in the name of each and all of the grantors, and each and all of the grantees, and exhibiting the book and page of the record of the several conveyances, shall give such designation of the land conveyed as the conveyances may furnish, and shall contain such other particulars as said judge shall direct.

Estimates; assessments; payments.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the said chief judge shall forthwith, after making the said contract, and annually thereafter, until said index shall be made and paid for, report to the said commissioners, and to the mayor and city council of Baltimore respectively, an estimate of the probable amount of expense aforesaid, for the thence ensuing year; which amount said commissioners and the mayor and city council of Balti-