

directed, and an oath truly, honestly and diligently, to execute his office, and true entries make of all such matters and things as he shall be directed by the auditor general, and not to divulge any matter or thing which he shall be enjoined by the house of delegates, or said auditor general, to keep secret. That the said principal clerk have power, in the necessary absence or sickness of the auditor general, to audit, examine, state and pass, any public account, not exceeding three hundred pounds, and that the auditor general be accountable for the conduct of such principal clerk, and may displace him at his discretion. That he have power to appoint other clerks as occasion may require, who shall qualify themselves in such manner as is above directed, and shall pay and be accountable for the conduct of such clerks, so employed. That before he enters on the execution of his office, he shall give bond in the penalty of five thousand pounds, with one or more good securities, to be approved of by the governor and the council, for the faithful performance of his duty, and that the said bond and certificates of the qualification of the auditor general, and his clerks, be lodged with the governor and the council. That the said auditor general attend constantly and diligently at some place in the city of Annapolis, or at such other place as the governor and the council may order and direct, to execute his office, and take into his possession and care the books, papers and accounts, of the late board of auditors, and continue the same in a plain and methodical manner, carefully examining, stating and correcting, any errors which may be found in the said books, papers and accounts; or if he shall think proper he may close the said books, and transfer the balances into a new set to be opened for the purpose aforesaid. That he call on all persons who have had or hereafter shall have any public monies, to render an account of the expenditure thereof, and shall keep true and perfect accounts of all his proceedings ready for the inspection of the house of delegates, when required; and that he divulge no matter or thing which he shall be enjoined to keep secret by the house of delegates, or the governor and the council. That in the stating and settling of all accounts brought before him, he be guided by the laws and regulations heretofore made, or which shall hereafter be made, so far as they provide; in other respects he shall be governed by the general principles of justice, equity and impartiality. He shall suffer no exorbitant charges to pass, nor any account without proper probates and vouchers; and if he refuse to pass any account in the gross, he shall take a list of such accounts in a book for the purpose. That he call upon the treasurers, when occasion may require, for a list of payments made by them, and compare the same with his books; upon the commissaries, quarter masters, store keepers, and others, who have heretofore had, now have, or hereafter shall have, any ammunition, arms, military accoutrements, and stores of every kind, artillery, horses and carriages, belonging to this state, for exact inventories thereof; that he call upon the commanding officers of the navy, and the masters of the trading vessels belonging to this state, for a state of their several vessels, with exact accounts of their tonnage, guns, men, tackle, apparel and furniture, that such accounts may be lodged in his office for the inspection of the general assembly. That he be authorised and empowered to call upon the late board of auditors,