

him kept and preserved as all other records are in his office.

Ibid s. 3
Powers pre-
scribed.

142. The said commissioner shall have and exercise all the powers which are now possessed by the judges of the circuit court of the several counties of this state to issue process and compel service thereof for the attendance of witnesses, as well as parties who appear upon the indexes, records, dockets, papers or any instrument of writing to be interested in property laying in Baltimore county, or who may have been connected with any deed, mortgage, bill of sale, suit, bond or other instrument of writing or cause pending in the circuit court for said county, the record of which or the original of which has been either wholly or partially destroyed by fire, and it shall be the duty of the sheriff of said county to serve such process, for which service he shall be entitled to receive the same fees as are now allowed by law for like services, to be paid either by the parties interested or by the county as the said commissioner may prescribe; and after the said commissioner has issued a summons for the attendance of any person interested or connected as above described, and the said party shall be returned by the said sheriff as summoned, and the party so summoned shall fail to appear as directed or give such excuse for his or her non-appearance as shall seem reasonable and proper in the judgment and discretion of the said commissioner, then the said commissioner is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to impose a fine upon such person of not more than fifty dollars nor less than five dollars and cost, and every fine thus imposed, including the cost, shall be regarded as a judgment in law; and it shall be the duty of the said commissioner to collect such fine and cost in such manner as other judgments are now collected in this state, and when collected to pay the same over to the treasurer of said county, who is authorized and directed to place the same to the