

CHAPTER 513

AN ACT to provide for the assessment of the unclaimed military lots and tracts of land in Allegany and Garrett counties, and for the collection of State and county taxes thereon by selling the delinquent lands and turning the net proceeds into the State treasury.

Preamble. WHEREAS, under the acts of seventeen hundred and eighty-one, seventeen hundred and eighty-seven and seventeen hundred and eighty-eight, upwards of two hundred thousand (200,000) acres of "the reserved lands westward of Fort Cumberland" were laid out in fifty acre lots and gratuitously awarded to the officers and soldiers of the "Maryland line" for their services in the revolutionary war; and,

Preamble. WHEREAS, it appears from the assessment books that upwards of one thousand of these military lots are not now assessed and never have paid any State or county taxes during the past century owing to the difficulty in ascertaining the proper names of the last owners who are non-residents of the counties in which the lots are located; and,

Preamble. WHEREAS, many of these lots have been taken up under escheat and other warrant and patented by the State and subsequently disowned by the patentees for the alleged reason that living, but non-resident heirs of the soldiers had been discovered; therefore,

Notice. SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the newspapers selected to publish the laws passed at this session, shall publish the following notice daily, for thirty days, in all the daily newspapers so selected, and weekly for ten consecutive weeks in all the weekly newspapers so selected, (form of notice to be published): Notice is hereby given to the legal heirs, assigns, devisees and representatives of all officers and soldiers who served in the "Maryland line" during the revolutionary war, that unless their claims to military lots lying westward of Fort Cumberland are legally established on or before the first day of April, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, in such manner as to secure the payment of State and county taxes thereon, all their rights shall be forfeited to the State, and all such lots as have not been patented or claimed by legal heirs, shall be advertised and sold to the highest bidders for cash and the net proceeds paid into the State treasury.

Fees for searches. SECTION 2. *And be it enacted,* That in order to enable the county authorities to trace and define the titles to these untaxed lands in time for the approaching general assessment, that they or their agent, shall have free access to the records in the land office of all patents, certificates of resurveys, indexes, &c., that in any way affect the title to these unclaimed and untaxed lands,