

Chapter 116.

AN ACT to authorize the Comptroller of the Treasury to adjust and settle the accounts due by Collectors, Sheriffs, Clerks of Courts, Registers of Wills and other receivers of public moneys, incorporations and individuals, who may be indebted to the state in cases where the indebtedness accrued prior to and including the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the comptroller be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to adjust and settle the claims of the state against all collectors, sheriffs, clerks of courts and registers of wills, and other collectors or receivers of public moneys, and their securities, incorporations and individuals, who may be indebted to the state in all cases where said claims accrued prior to and including the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two; and whether said claims be now in the form of judgments or otherwise; and for the purpose of closing all such cases, the comptroller is hereby fully authorized to compromise the same by abating the interest that has accrued, or any portion thereof, or any part of the principal debt, in his discretion, so as to best subserve the interest of the state, and shall grant discharges to the said parties and their securities upon the payment into the treasury of the amount required by him to be paid in the settlement as aforesaid; provided, however, that the governor and treasurer for the time being shall each approve, in writing, any such abatement before the same shall be effective; and provided further, that no discharge or acquittance under this act shall be effective unless the party or parties to be benefited by the same shall first pay the attorney, who shall have the case in hand, the legal fees and all fees of clerks or sheriffs.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That for the purpose of bringing all unsettled balances due the state to a speedy settlement, the comptroller is directed to employ such attorney or attorneys as in his judgment will best subserve the interest of the state.

Comptroller to adjust and settle claims.

Authorized to compromise.

Authorized to employ.