

CHAPTER 532.

CHAP. 532.

AN ACT to repeal Section 33 A of Article 54 of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, title "Land Office," added by Chapter 191, passed at the January Session of 1894, and to re-enact the same with amendments.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That section 33 A of Article 54 of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, title "Land Office," added by chapter 191, passed at the January session of 1894, be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted, so as to read as follows :

Repeal and re-enact.

33 A. The amounts due the State upon any certificates of survey for fees and for composition or purchase money and the value of improvements are hereby declared to be a lien upon the land surveyed ; and the Commissioner of the Land Office is authorized, in his discretion, whenever the amount involved justifies it, to enforce said lien either by appropriate action in the name of the State in a Court of competent jurisdiction, or by a sale of the certificate of survey, which sale shall be conducted in the following manner : He shall first give notice in writing to the party in whose name said certificate was returned or to the assignee thereof, that unless the amount of the fees, composition or purchase money and value of improvements due on said certificate is paid within the time specified in such notice, not less than sixty days from the date thereof, the said certificate will be offered for sale, and if the amount due the State, as aforesaid, is not paid within the time specified in said notice, the Commissioner of the Land Office may sell said certificate at public auction, for cash, after reasonable notice of such sale inserted in some newspaper published in the county where the land lies, the Commissioner reserving the right to reject any bid if he deems the price offered inadequate ; and the purchaser of such certificate shall be entitled to a patent thereon upon the payment of the price bid and the fees for patent, in the same manner as an assignee of the certificate would be entitled to patent under the rules of the land office, upon exhibition of the proof of assignment. This section to apply only to those cases in which more than one year has elapsed since the date of the warrant ; and nothing herein contained shall prevent any person from obtaining a proclamation warrant on such certificate as fully as if this section had not been enacted. If the amount involved does not justify in proceeding as above, the Commissioner, after giving at least two months' notice in writing to the owner of the certificate of the amount due thereon for fees and compo-

Declared to be a lien upon land surveyed.