

## CHAPTER 441.

AN ACT to appropriate a sum of money to provide for the indexing of certain volumes of the proceedings of the Prerogative Court of the Province of Maryland, and administration accounts, inventories and balance books, and for the re-arrangement of original wills of early settlers of Maryland, and their preservation against destruction by fire.

WHEREAS, There are at this time in the office of the register of wills of Anne Arundel county, formerly belonging to the office of the Commissary General of the Province of Maryland, forty-seven volumes of the proceedings of the prerogative court of the said province; also seventy-four volumes of administrators' accounts; one hundred and twenty-six volumes of inventories, and six volumes of final distribution on balance books from all the counties of the State, in existence prior to the war of the Revolution, containing valuable historical matter, now inaccessible to the public, for the reason that a large proportion of said volumes are without indexes; and whereas, also, there are on file in the said register of wills' office at this time fifteen thousand original wills of the early settlers of the province of Maryland, covering the period from 1635 to 1777, A. D., also of great historical interest, but which for lack of suitable appliances for their arrangement and examination are also virtually inaccessible to the public; and because of the flimsy and combustible character of the room where they are stowed, are in great danger of being destroyed by fire; therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the register of wills of Anne Arundel county, and the Governor of the State, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to have indexed in proper books to be purchased by them for that purpose, the aforesaid forty-seven volumes of the proceedings of the prerogative court of the province of Maryland, seventy-four volumes of the administration accounts, one hundred and twenty-six volumes of inventories, and six volumes of distribution or balance books, and to arrange in patent file holders and jackets, to be purchased by them for that purpose, fifteen thousand original wills of early settlers of the province of Maryland, as aforesaid.

Index to volumes in office of register of wills.