

CHAPTER 205.

AN ACT to repeal Section 37 of Article 19 of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Comptroller," as amended by Chapter 83 of the Acts of 1892, Chapter 300 of the Acts of 1894, and as further amended by Chapter 77 of the Acts of 1896, and to re-enact the same with amendments.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That section 37 of Article 19 of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Comptroller," as amended by chapter 83 of the Acts of 1892, chapter 300 of the Acts of 1894, and as further amended by chapter 77 of the Acts of 1896, be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted so as to read as follows: Repeal.

37. The Comptroller is 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, and against corporations and individuals who may be indebted to the State, in all cases where said claims accrued prior to and including the year 1896, and whether said claims be in the form of judgment or otherwise; and for the purpose of closing all such cases, the Comptroller is fully authorized to compromise the same by abating the interest that has accrued, or any proportion 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, the Comptroller shall be satisfied after thorough examination into the claim, that the same could not be collected for the State by legal process, and further, 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 section 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. Adjust claims.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage. Effective.

Approved April 9, 1898.