

CHAP. 361. from the State of Maryland, it shall and may be lawful, and is hereby declared to be the duty of the Commissioner of the Land Office, to issue a patent or patents for such land to the person or persons appearing to him to be entitled thereto, granting all title to such lands that may be in the State of Maryland; *Provided*, however, that before issuing any such patent or patents, the said commissioner shall order and direct the party or parties applying therefor, to cause to be inserted in one or more of the newspapers published in the city or county where the land lies; if there be a newspaper published therein, an advertisement setting forth the object of the application, and therein describing, by metes and bounds, and such other general description of the land for which the patent is sought, so that the said land may be known, and also, in said advertisement, particularly describing the claim of the party, or parties, applicant for such patent, which said advertisement shall be inserted in said paper or papers, if there be any, at least once a week for three successive weeks, from the date of such order and directions of the commissioner, and shall, in addition to the matters of description hereinbefore required, contain a notification of the day and hour on which the said parties applicant will apply to the Commissioner of the Land Office to issue such patent, which day shall be at least sixty days from the day of filing the said application for patent in the Land Office, which said advertisement shall warn all parties interested, to be and appear before said commissioner on the day and hour therein designated in such advertisement, to show cause, if any they have, why said patent should not be issued to said applicant or applicants, on or after which day, if no person appears to contest the said application, a patent, as aforesaid, shall issue to such applicant or applicants; but should opposition be made to the issue of such patent, the party or parties making such opposition, shall, by a day to be designated by the Commissioner of the Land Office, not exceeding thirty days, file in the Land Office their objections, in writing, to the issue of such patent or patents, upon the hearing of which application, to be fixed for some day by the said commissioner, at least ten days, and not exceeding twenty days, after the objections are filed, the said commissioner shall hear the respective parties, if they appear before him, and if not, then shall proceed to determine ex parte, the rights of the parties claiming to be interested, and shall within thirty days after such hearing, decide in favor of the application, or reject the same, as to him

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