

CHAPTER 355

(House Bill 1015)

AN ACT to repeal Section 20 of Article 5 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Appeals," subtitle "Appeals to Court of Appeals," subheading "Appeals from Commissioner of the Land Office"; to repeal Section 16 of Article 36 of said Code (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Fees of Officers," subtitle "Commissioner of Land Office" and to enact a new Section 16 to stand in the place of the Section so repealed and to be under the same Article, title, subtitle, and subheading; to repeal Sections 1 through 8, 11 through 14, 18 through 44, all inclusive, and Section 46A of said Article 54 of said Code (1964 Replacement Volume and 1966 Supplement), title "Land Office," and to enact in lieu thereof new Sections 12 through 26, to stand in the place of the sections so repealed and to be under the new subtitle "Land Patents"; to declare the nature and purpose of such new subtitle and the effect of certain of its provisions upon other provisions of law and existing rights; to designate and to define the powers and duties of a Commissioner for the issuance of patents for land, as therein defined; to establish certain rights, priorities, duties and interests of persons seeking to obtain land patents and other persons in such proceedings and to prescribe and regulate the procedure for obtaining such patents; to provide for the effect of and punishment for perjury in connection with such proceedings; to provide for the valuation of certain vacant land; to establish the circumstances under which a patent will be issued and the method for making determination of the existence of such circumstances; to provide for the manner of termination of proceedings to obtain patents and the lien and manner of collection of certain costs, fees, charges or purchase prices assessed or due therein; to prescribe the form, contents and effect of patents issued in accordance with such procedures; to provide and regulate appeals in such cases; to provide for the custody and maintenance of certain records relating to land patents and the certification thereof; to declare the severability of the provisions of said new subtitle; to prescribe fees to be charged by the Commissioner for services performed under said subtitle; and relating generally to land patents and the issuance thereof.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland.* That Sections 1 through 8, 11 through 14, 18 through 44, all inclusive, and Section 46A of said Article 54 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume and 1966 Supplement), title "Land Office" be, and they are hereby repealed; and that 15 new sections, be and they are hereby added to said Article 54, to stand in the place of the sections so repealed and to be designated Sections 12 through 26, inclusive, and to be under the new subtitle "Land Patents" and to read as follows:

Land Patents

12. *Nature and purpose of subtitle.*

The abolition of the office of Commissioner of the Land Office by vote of the people at the general election of November 8, 1966, and the abolition or modification of various forms for obtaining patents