

(e) *Summons.* The Commissioner may issue summons, including summons duces tecum, to any person to appear and testify at any deposition or hearing authorized by this subtitle. Such summons may be issued with or without the request of any party to a proceeding before the Commissioner, shall be directed to and served by the sheriff of the county in which the person summoned resides or has a place of business in the same manner as other civil process, and shall be returnable to the Commissioner. Upon proof of service of such summons and noncompliance by the person summoned, the Circuit Court for the county in which the hearing or deposition is to be conducted shall issue its order for compliance with such summons and shall charge the costs of such proceeding to the person summoned. Failure to obey such order issued by the Circuit Court shall be punished as contempt.

(f) *Perjury in proceeding.* Any willful and false oath or affirmation made in any hearing before the Commissioner or in any application, certificate, deposition or other document filed in a proceeding to obtain a patent shall be deemed perjury and punished as such.

(g) *Employees.* The Commissioner may appoint such persons to assist him in the performance of the duties imposed by this subtitle as may be authorized from time to time in the budget. In addition, any employees of the Hall of Records may be designated to assist in the performance of such duties.

15. Patents generally.

(a) *Persons entitled to apply.* Subject to the provisions of this subtitle, any person may obtain a patent for vacant land or obtain a new patent for land theretofore patented, or both, in the manner and to the extent provided herein.

(b) *Interest before patent.* To the extent that any interest of the State passes or is affected by any proceeding hereunder, such interest shall not pass or be affected until the actual issuance of a patent; and no person shall acquire any interest in any land by virtue of filing an application, the issuance or return of any warrant or certificate of survey, or at any other time prior to such issuance of a patent.

16. Commencement of proceeding for issuance of patent.

(a) *Application required.* A proceeding to obtain a patent shall be commenced by filing with the Commissioner an application for a warrant to survey vacant land, a warrant to resurvey any land then owned in fee simple absolute by the applicant, or a warrant to resurvey any land then owned in fee simple absolute by the applicant and to add thereto any contiguous vacant land. All other forms of warrant, including common warrants, special warrants, escheat warrants, and proclamation warrants are abolished.

(b) *Contents of application.* The application shall contain:

(i) The name and address of the applicant;

(ii) The county and election district in which the property for which patent is sought is located;

(iii) Separate descriptions of any vacant land and any land then owned by the applicant for which a patent is sought, and the estimated