

(c) *Records; certification.*—The Commissioner shall have custody of and maintain all records relating to the issuance of patents, including all books, docketts, and papers relating thereto which were formerly in the custody of the Commissioner of the Land Office. He shall upon request and payment of any fees required by law, certify copies of such records; and such certification shall have the same effect as certification by the Commissioner of the Land Office had on January 1, 1967. He may adopt such rules as may be necessary for the use, preservation, repair and maintenance of such records.

(d) *Nature of proceedings.*—All proceedings relating to the issuance of patents and all papers, docketts, orders and decisions therein shall have the same force and effect as proceedings of a court of record and shall be proved and established in the same manner as are proceedings in such courts. It shall not be necessary to record a patent in any place other than the records of the Commissioner.

(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 title. 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 title 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.

13-104. *Who may obtain patent; interest not passed, affected or acquired until issuance of patent.*

(a) *Persons entitled to apply for patent.*—Subject to the provisions of this title, 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 issues.*—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.