

C H A P.
XX.

surveys shall be answerable for the faithful discharge of their office, and compliance with the directions of this act.

V. Whereas sundry persons, with the consent of the late proprietary, or his agents or stewards, had surveys made within the reserves, with intent to obtain leases thereon :

Title to sur-
veys saved,
&c.

VI. **Be it enacted,** That the equitable title of persons to such surveys shall be saved, and only the reversion of the state shall be liable to sale, in such manner as the general assembly shall direct.

Time for com-
pounding, &c.

VII. **And be it enacted,** That the time for compounding for all vacant lands hereafter to be surveyed shall be within one year from the date of the warrant, and all persons having surveys already made shall compound thereon on or before the first day of May next, and the purchase money on all escheats shall be paid within one year from the date of the warrant ; after which times respectively warrants may issue to any other person who shall apply for the same ; and the governor and council, from time to time, may make and establish such rules and orders for the direction of the treasurers in issuing their titlings or orders for warrants, and for the conduct of the examiner-general and the registers in their respective offices, and for the behaviour of surveyors, as they shall think proper, and such rules and orders shall be observed by the said officers respectively ; and if any dispute shall arise concerning the validity of surveys or the grant of lands, the same shall be heard and determined by the chancellor, as to all warrants or surveys heretofore granted or made, agreeable to the former rules of the land-office, and as to all warrants and surveys hereafter to be issued or executed, according to such rules and orders as shall be established by the governor and the council.

Governor and
council may
appoint an
examiner-ge-
neral, &c.

VIII. **And be it enacted,** That the governor, with the advice of the council, be authorised to appoint and commission one fit and proper person (who shall reside at Annapolis) to be examiner-general, who shall examine, and pass or reject, any certificate delivered to him, agreeable to the former or future rules and directions, as the case may be ; and in case of refusal, death, resignation, or disqualification, of any person appointed examiner-general, the governor and council may appoint another in his place ; and any person appointed shall, before he acts in his office, take the oath to the government, and an oath to execute his office diligently and faithfully, without favour, affection, partiality, or prejudice.

To whom pre-
ference is to
be given, &c.

IX. **And be it enacted,** That a preference shall be given to those who have, before the first day of December, seventeen hundred and eighty-one, made, or may, after the first day of February, seventeen hundred and eighty-two, make the first application for warrants (in proper hours for the transaction of public business) ; provided, on application heretofore made, warrants shall be obtained on or before the first day of July next ; and no warrant of escheat shall be good, unless where the owner hath died or shall die intestate, seized in fee-simple, and without having any relation of the half blood within two degrees (that is first cousins) as the same are reckoned by the common law, and without leaving any relation who might inherit, if a subject of this or any