

An ACT allowing a longer time to compound on old certificates, and making further regulations respecting the sale of vacant lands.

Persons may compound on surveys, &c.

**B**E it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That all persons, having surveys made before the first day of March seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, or having surveys since made by virtue of warrants granted before that time, may compound thereon on or before the first day of November next, after which day warrants may issue to affect the land not paid for before that day, to the person who shall first apply for the same; provided always, that no warrant shall issue to affect any survey not compounded on within the time aforesaid limited, if the certificate has been lost or mislaid, or erroneous, or where the owner is an infant, or caveat remains in force against issuing grant, or default in payment has not been owing to the neglect of the owner, without the express licence of the chancellor; and if any owner shall neglect to compound on such certificates, he may, at any time before application for a warrant to affect such land, obtain a grant, on paying for surplus or vacant land the sum of seven shillings and six-pence per acre, or for escheat lands two thirds of the actual value, and for improvements (if any) the full worth thereof, as in other cases.

Certificates to lie 3 months, &c.

II. And be it enacted, That all certificates, returned or to be returned in virtue of warrants or orders granted before the first day of March, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, shall lie in the office three months after the first day of July next; and all certificates returned upon warrants granted in virtue of the act to appropriate certain lands to the use of the officers and soldiers of this state, and for the sale of vacant lands, or hereafter to be granted, shall lie in the office six months after they shall be compounded on, after which times respectively grants may issue, without notice, as required by the act of last session.

Chain-carriers to be sworn, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That no person shall act as a chain-carrier, unless he be first sworn or affirmed, "faithfully, carefully, and impartially, to carry the chain;" which oath or affirmation any surveyor or sheriff may administer; and no surveyor shall execute any warrant from the land-office, or the general or any county court, unless the chain-carrier be first qualified as aforesaid, and it is declared to be the duty of every surveyor, diligently to observe the conduct of chain-carriers, and to take care that they faithfully execute their duty.

U. Scott to deliver certificates, &c.

IV. And, Whereas many certificates remain in the hands of Upton Scott, Esquire, late examiner-general, Be it enacted, That he be directed to deliver, on or before the first day of July next, all certificates in his hands, whether passed or not, to the register of the land-office for the western shore, and the said register shall receive the fees due on each of the said certificates as have been examined and passed by the said Upton Scott, and pay the same over to him or his order; and the said register shall deliver any erroneous certificate to the owner, on his giving his receipt therefor, and paying the fees due for examining thereof,