

VI. And be it enacted, That the attorney-general shall not charge, or be entitled to any greater fee than fifteen shillings current money for any execution or executions issued and returned served, made or satisfied, on any one bond.

C H A P.
XLIV.
Attorney-general's fee.

VII. And be it enacted, That where any lands have been sold by the commissioners for confiscated property, or by the late intendant, which lands, or any improvements thereon erected at the time of purchase, are or may hereafter be legally taken away from the purchasers, or any part thereof, so as to render the same of much less value, and by which the purchaser will receive great injury, and render the remainder thereof of little value, the chancellor, after hearing the case, and upon a view of all circumstances, may and shall make such decree therein as equity and justice may require.

Where lands are taken away, the chancellor may decree.

C H A P. XLV.

An ACT to direct descents.

Passed January 20.

WHEREAS the law of descents, which originated with the feudal system and military tenures, is contrary to justice, and ought to be abolished;

Preamble.

II. Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That if after the commencement of this act, any person seized of an estate in any lands, tenements or hereditaments, lying or being in this state, in fee-simple or fee-simple conditional, heretofore or hereafter acquired, or of an estate in fee-tail, to the heirs of the body generally, created and acquired after the commencement of this act, shall die intestate thereof, such lands, tenements or hereditaments, shall descend to the kindred, male and female, of such person, in the following order, to wit: First to the child or children and their descendants, if any, equally, and if no child or descendant, and the estate descended to the intestate on the part of the father, then to the father, and if no father living, then to the brothers and sisters of the intestate of the blood of the father, and their descendants equally, and if no brother or sister as aforesaid, or descendant from such brother or sister, then to the grand-father on the part of the father, and if no such grand-father living, then to the descendants of such grand-father and their descendants in equal degree equally, and if no descendant of such grand-father, then to the father of such grand-father, and if none such living, then to the descendants of the father of such grand-father in equal degree, and so on, passing to the next lineal male paternal ancestor, and if none such, to his descendants in equal degree without end, and if no paternal ancestor, or descendant from such ancestor, then to the mother of the intestate, and if no mother living, to her descendants in equal degree equally, and if no mother living, or descendants from such mother, then to the maternal ancestors and their descendants in the same manner as is above directed as to the paternal ancestors and their descendants, and if the estate descended to the intestate on the part of the mother, and the intestate shall die without any child or descendant as aforesaid, then the estate shall go to the mother, and if no mother living, then to the brothers and sisters of the intestate of the blood of the mother and their descendants in equal degree equally, and if no such brother or sister, or descendant of such brother or sister, then to the grand-father on the part of the mother, and if no such grand-father living, then to his descendants in equal degree equally, and if no such descendant of such grand-father, then to the father of such grand-father, and if none such living, then to his descendants in equal degree, and so on, passing to the next male maternal ancestor, and if none such living, to his descendants in equal degree, and if no such maternal ancestor, or descendant from any maternal ancestor, then to the father of the intestate, and if no father living, to his descendants in equal degree equally, and if no father living, or descendant from the father, then to the paternal ancestors and their descendants in the same manner as is above directed as to the maternal ancestors; and if the estate is or shall be vested in the intestate by purchase, and not derived from or through either of his ancestors, and there be no child or descendant of such intestate, then the estate shall descend to the brothers and sisters of such intestate of the whole blood,

How lands shall descend, &c.