

by the petition of Jesse Jarrett and Henry Scarff, that William Norris late of Harford county deceased, died intestate, leaving a number of heirs, several of whom have left the State of Maryland, that their places of abode is unknown if they are living at all, that the said Norris left several tracts of land, (to wit.) one called William's Trust, containing ninety four acres, and one other called Norris's Venture, containing sixty-four acres, both of which are lease hold land, and one other called Norris's Neglect, containing eighty acres, which is certificate land, all of which lying and being in Harford county, and in the reserve was purchased by the said deceased William Norris, at a sale of the late intendant of the revenue, on the twenty-first of September seventeen hundred and eighty-five, that the purchase money has been fully paid up, that the said Norris neglected to have the said land surveyed and a certificate thereof returned, that a patent could or might issue, that the said petitioners are assignees of several of the aforesaid heirs, and that they are desirous of having the said lands divided or sold, that there is no law in existence by which the same can be done, and prays that a law may be passed authorising the chancellor to take cognizance by the same; Therefore,

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Sec. 1. BE IT ENACTED *By the General Assembly of Maryland*, That it shall and may be lawful for the Chancellor of Maryland, upon the application in writing of any one or more of the heirs of the said William Norris, or one or more of the assignees of the said heirs, to issue his order, directing the surveyor of Harford county to survey or cause the lands aforesaid of the late William Norris to be surveyed, and a certificate and plot thereof returned in the usual manner of returning land certificates, and that upon satisfactory proof having been made that the purchase was fair and bona fide made, and that the state hath been fully paid for all the lands contained in such certificate, that then and in that case the chancellor shall direct a patent to issue to the heirs of the said William Norris or their assignees, or both as the case may be, or justice dictate, that then the chancellor upon application of any one or more of the parties concerned, or of their assignee or assignees for a division or sale of the said lands, the chancellor shall proceed as directed by the act directing descents and the several supplements thereto, in making division or sale of the same so as to have the same divided or sold, as the case may be.

Chancellor  
may issue his  
order.

2. AND BE IT ENACTED, That no other notice of the intention to divide or sell the lands aforesaid shall be necessary when application may be made, than that of publishing the same in such newspapers, and for such length of time as the chancellor shall direct, and in case a sale shall actually take place, the chancellor shall order the money that will be due from said sale to the absent heirs if any there shall be, to be vested in some productive fund for them, and such notice thereof published as he may think proper to direct; and upon their appearing or their heirs or assignees, the chancellor shall direct the same to be paid over to them or either of them as they shall apply, or to their order.

Notice.

3. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in case any of the absent heirs aforesaid shall not appear or make application as aforesaid for their portion of the money arising from the sales of said lands within such time as the chancellor shall think pro-

Absent heirs  
not applying.