

LAWS OF MARYLAND, JANUARY SESSION, 1882.

CHAPTER 138.

AN ACT to provide for the preservation, arrangement, publication and sale of Ancient Documents pertaining to Maryland.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the Commissioner of the Land Office be and he is hereby authorized and directed to deliver at Annapolis, to the Maryland Historical Society or to its agent, all the records, archives and ancient documents of the province and State of Maryland of any date prior to the acknowledgment of the independence of the United States by Great Britain, and to keep a list thereof; and that any and all public officers in whose possession any of such records, archives and documents aforesaid may be, are hereby authorized and directed to deliver the same to the said Maryland Historical Society as aforesaid, and to keep a list thereof; and that the said Maryland Historical Society is hereby declared to be the custodian of such records, archives and documents, the State of Maryland remaining the owner thereof; provided that the said Maryland Historical Society shall be understood, by the receiving and giving receipt for records, archives and documents aforesaid, to agree that such records, archives and documents shall be safely kept, properly arranged and catalogued, and that such of them as are of historical importance shall be edited and published under the supervision of said society; and provided that said records shall at all times be accessible to the inspection of any citizen of this State free of all charges and fees.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* For the purpose of properly arranging, editing and publishing the aforesaid documents as hereinbefore provided, as well as other documents pertaining to the history of Maryland, the sum of two thousand dollars is hereby appropriated and shall be paid to the said Maryland Historical Society out of any funds in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, as follows: One thousand dollars thereof upon demand at any time after the aforesaid records, archives and documents shall have been removed and placed in the

Deliver ancient documents.

Custodian of records.

Appropriation, to whom paid.