

CHAPTER XLVIII.

AN ACT to establish a State Seminary, and for other purposes.

APPROVED, January 20, 1820.

Trustees appointed
 Style
 Perpetuated
 Powers as a corporation
 Continuance in office

SEC. 1. BE it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That Charles Dewey, Jonathan Lindley, David H. Maxwell, John M. Jenkins, Jonathan Nichols, and William Lowe, be, and they are hereby appointed trustees of the state seminary, for the state of Indiana, and shall be known by the name and style of the trustees of the state seminary, of the state of Indiana, and they, and their successors in office, shall have perpetual succession, and by the name and style aforesaid, shall be able and capable in law, to sue, and be sued, plead, and be impleaded, answer, and be answered unto, as a body corporate and politic; in any court of justice: and the trustees hereby appointed, shall continue in office, until the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, and until their successors are chosen and qualified.

When and where to meet

SEC. 2. The trustees aforesaid, or a majority of them, shall meet at Bloomington, in the county of Monroe, on the first Monday in June next, or so soon thereafter, as may be convenient, and being first duly sworn to discharge the duties of their office, shall repair to the reserved township of land in said county, which was granted by Congress to

this state, for the use of a seminary of learning, and proceed to select an eligible and convenient site for a state seminary.

To select a site for seminary

SEC. 3. It shall be lawful for the trustees hereby appointed, to appoint an agent, who shall give bond with security to be approved of by the trustees aforesaid, payable to the Governor and his successors in office, for the use of the state seminary aforesaid, in the sum of twenty thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of his office; and it shall be the duty of the agent aforesaid, after taking an oath of office, to proceed to lay off, and expose to sale, under the sanction of the trustees aforesaid, any number of lots, or quantity of land, within the reserved township, aforesaid, and contiguous to Bloomington, not exceeding one section, or six hundred and forty acres thereof.

Agent to give bond
 Penalty
 Condition
 Agents duties

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the agent aforesaid, first to expose to sale, such lots as may be selected most contiguous to the site which may be selected for the seminary aforesaid, and take of the purchasers of any lots or lands which he may sell, under the provisions of this act, such payments and security therefor, as may be directed by the trustees aforesaid.

What lots first to be sold
 Payments & securities

SEC. 5. The trustees aforesaid, shall so soon as they deem it expedient, proceed to the erection of a suitable building for a state seminary, as also a suitable and commodious house for a Professor, on the site which may be selected by them for that purpose.

Trustees to erect buildings

To report their proceedings to the General Assembly

SEC. 6. The trustees aforesaid, shall within ten days after the meeting of the next General Assembly, lay before them a true and perfect statement of their proceedings so far as they have progressed under the provisions of this act, and a plat of the lots or lands laid off and sold, and the amount of the proceeds of such sales, and also a plan of buildings, by them erected, or proposed to be erected.

To give bond and security
 Condition
 Vacancies filled

SEC. 7. The trustees hereby appointed, shall before they enter upon the duties of their office, give bond and security, to be approved of by the Governor, in the sum of five thousand dollars, payable to the Governor and his successor in office, for the use of the state seminary, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of their office; and if any vacancy shall happen in the office of trustees, the governor shall fill such vacancy, by an appointment which shall expire on the first day of January next.

This act signed into law by Governor Jonathan Jennings on January 20, 1820, may be called the birth certificate of Indiana University. The law named the trustees of the proposed State Seminary and instructed them to meet in Bloomington the first Monday in June 1820. They were directed to sell some of the land, select a site for the seminary in Perry Township of Monroe County, and erect "a suitable building for a state seminary, as also a suitable and commodious house for a Professor." The trustees spent more than five years complying with the terms of the law, for it was April 1825 before the seminary opened for instruction. The State Seminary had as assets when chartered a township of land in Gibson County and a township in Monroe County. The sale and rental of these lands was to provide the building projects and operating expenses for the seminary, supplemented by a small student fee. It was 1867 before the Indiana General Assembly made its first appropriation, \$8,000, in support of the university.