"An act to grant a quantity of land to the State of Illinois for the purpose of aiding in opening a canal to connect the waters of the Illinois River with those of Lake Michigan."

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,"

Sec 1 "That there be, and hereby is, granted to the State of Illinois, for the purpose of aiding the said State in opening a canal to unite the waters of the Illinois river with those of Lake Michigan a quantity of land equal to one half of five sections in width, on each side of said Canal, and reserving each alternate section to the United States, to be selected by the Commissioner of the Land Office, under the direction of the President of the United States, from one end of said Canal to the other; and the said lands shall be subject to the disposal of the Legislature of said State, for the purpose aforesaid and no other: Provided that the said Canal when completed shall be and forever remain a public highway for the use of the Government of the United States, free from any toll, or other charge, whatever, for any property of the United States or persons in their Service passing through the same: Provided that said canal shall be commenced within five years, and completed in twenty years or the State shall be bound to pay the United States the amount of any lands previously sold and that the title to purchasers under the State shall be valid"

Sec 2. "And be it further enacted, That, so soon as the route of said Canal shall be located and agreed on by the said State, it shall be the duty of the governor thereof or such other person or persons as may have been, or shall hereafter be, authorized to superintend the construction of said canal, to examine and ascertain the particular sections to which the said State will be entitled, under the provisions of this act and report the same to the Secretary of the United States

Sec 3 "That the said State, under the authority of the Legislature thereof after the selection shall have been so made, shall have power to sell and convey the whole, or any part of the said land and to give a title in fee simple therefor, to whomsoever shall purchase the whole or any part thereof"

Approved 2d March 1827