

CHAPTER CXIII.

An ACT to enable persons appointed to offices of public trust to recover official documents appurtenant to the said offices from persons detaining the same.

Section 1. **B**E it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That in all cases where any person has been or hereafter shall be appointed to any office of public trust or employment, it shall be his duty, and it is hereby enjoined upon him, to call upon the person or persons who held the offices immediately before his appointment, or upon the heirs, executors or administrators of such person or persons, and receive from him or them all records, books, draughts, plans, papers, seals or other official documents, which to such office or appointment belonged, or of right appertained.

Persons appointed to public office to call on their immediate predecessors for the books and other official documents belonging to such office.

Proceedings in case such predecessor refuses to deliver up said official documents.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if the person or persons in whose hands or possession any such records, books, draughts, plans, papers, seals or other official documents shall or may remain, shall refuse to deliver up the same, upon the reasonable request of any person legally commissioned to such office or appointment, the said officer shall forthwith apply to a justice of the peace, who shall issue process for such person or persons so refusing, and shall cause them, either by sufficient bail or commitment; to appear at the next court of quarter sessions for the proper county, there to be proceeded against by way of indictment for the offence aforesaid.

Sec. 3.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted by the au-* Penalty on persons convicted of detaining such books & documents from the officer intitled to receive them.
thority aforesaid, That every person legally convicted by verdict of a jury, of detaining from any person duly commissioned to any office or appointment, any records, books, draughts, plans, papers, seals or other documents, to such office or appointment belonging, or in any wise appertaining, after reasonable demand made, the court before whom such verdict is given, shall sentence such person to be committed in close custody, in the jail of the proper county, there to remain without bail or main-prize, until such papers so found by verdict to be in his, her or their possession, shall be delivered to the proper officer, and shall moreover pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars; one half to be paid to the officer from whom the documents were detained, and the other half to the use of the commonwealth.

SIMON SNYDER, *Speaker*

of the House of Representatives.

ROBERT WHITEHILL, *Speaker*

of the Senate.

APPROVED—the third day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and four.

THOMAS M'KEAN, *Governor*

of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.