

And Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid That if any person be Sued for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, such persons so sued may plead the general Issue And give this Act and Special Matter in Evidence, And if the Plaintiff or Prosecutor shall be cast, the Defendant shall recover treble damages — Provided always that none shall be punished by virtue of this Act for any Neglect or miscarriage in the Execution thereof, but within one year after such Offence.

A.P.S., Original Laws of Pennsylvania from 1693-1700, f. 77.
H.S.P., Cadwalader Collection. Act of November 7, 1696, chapter 2.
See chapter 129, 1697.

CHAPTER 124.

THE LAW FOR RAISING COUNTY LEVIES.

Whereas there is a continual Occasion for a publick Stock to Defray the necessary Charge in each County for the Support of the Poor, building or Repairing of Prisons, Paying the Salarys belonging to the Council & Assembly, Paying for Wolfs heads, the Judges Expences & all Just Debts with many other necessary Charges,

Be it therefore Enacted by the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Assembly met That from & after the first day of the first moneth next the Justices of each County within this province & Territories at their respective Quarter Sessions to be held in the Seventh Moneth yearly, or oftner if occasion be shall with the Assistance of the respective Grand Juries and any three of the Assessors hereafter mentioned Calculate the publick Charge of the County and shall Allow all Just debts dues and accounts.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That in each respective County within this province & Territories at the usual time & place appointed by Law for the freemens Electing their Representatives to Serve in Council & Assembly It shall & may be Lawful then & there for the said freemen to Nominate & appoint Six Assessors of the substantial freeholders in each respective County of which the Sheriff in each County, after the said Elections of Representatives is made &

done shall put the said freemen in mind of their Duty in this respect, And when the said Assessors are nominated as aforesaid the said respective Sheriffs shall take their Names & make a fair Return under his hand to the Clark of the County within ten days after the said Election is made which he shall keep on the File, & also communicate the same to the next County Court, Which said Assessors or any four of them on or before the twenty fourth day of the Eighth moneth next after the Calculation of the aforesaid publick County Charge shall make or Lay a Rate or Assessment in manner following (vizt) the Rate of one penny per pound (and so proportionably for a greater or lesser Summ) for every pound clear value of real & personal Estates Except household goods & Implements which they use, And such Sums of money & Debts as they really owe, and having a due regard to such who have a great Charge of Children, whose clear value of both real & personal estate doth not amount to Thirty pounds, & after the Rate of Six shillings per head (& So proportionably for a greater or lesser Summ) of all Freemen who have been out of their Servitude for the Space of Six moneths and all such who come free into this Government & have been therein Resident for the Space of fourty days & are above the Age of Sixteen years & have not familys or Charge to maintain & are not under their Parents tuition & assisting to them on their plantations or Trades, or are not otherwise Rated by this Act, And the Justices of the respective Countys or some one of them shall by warrant cause the Constables to bring in Certificates in writing of the Names of every person in their respective Limits with which they shall be Charged, & of the Substance & values of every one of them who are to be Rated by this Act, which said Substances & values shall again be Liable to the valuation of the Assessors aforesaid, who are by all Lawfull means they can to inform themselves of the true valuation of the clear estate both real & personal within their respective Countys, and shall Assess themselves & others for and in respect of the said Estates as aforesaid And the Assessors shall appoint so many Collectors as they shall think fit to Collect & gather the same, who shall have for his pains Allowed by the Treasurer One Shilling per pound, or so much as the Assessors can Agree for.

Ane Be it further Enacted That the said assessors shall Appoint a Treasurer in their respective Countys who shall keep a distinct Book containing a peculiar account of all the rates & Assessments made as aforeaid as also of all Disbursements & payments he hath made by order from the Justices & Assessors, Which said Treasurer shall in the Seventh moneth yearly bring in his Account & make them up in Open Court before the Justices of the said Court and Assessors & all others that are willing to be present at the Auditing thereof, Except in Case of death or other Extraordinary Occasions that shall be allowed of by the Court And for his Service he shall have so much as the Assessor can Agree with him for.

And Be it further enacted for the further Encouragment of the Justices & Overseers of the Poor to disburse money upon a suddain or Emergent Occasion for Relief of the poor Out of the first money that shall be raised to pay the County Charges the Moneys laid out for the poor (before any other disbursments or payments be made) shall be first satisfied & fully paid — Provided always that the debts formerly due from the County may be in like manner payed as those which shall be hereafter due. And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if the Collectors so as aforesaid Chosen shall deny Neglect or refuse to Collect any Summ or Sums of Money in form aforementioned assessed, & be Convicted thereof, shall be fined by the Justices of the respective County Courts in any Summ not exceeding five pounds to the use of the poor of that County.

And Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid That if any person or persons whatsoever within this Government, who shall be assessed or rated any Summ or Sums of money by virtue of this Act to be Levyed, shall deny, refuse or delay to pay the same, That then it shall & may be lawful for any Collector by virtue of a Warrant under the hand & seal of any Justices of the peace of the County where such Offender shall reside who by virtue of this Act are Required & Authorized to grant such Warrants to Levy the same by distress & Sale of such person or persons goods and Chattels returning the Overplus (if any be) to the owners after the Summ assessed & distrained for, with all the Reasonable Charges are Deducted.

And Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid That the money or effects gathered & received by the said Collectors within their respective Limits by virtue of this Act, shall from time to time be duly paid to such Receiver or Receivers as shall be appointed to receive the same, whose Receipts shall be sufficient Discharges to such Collectors

Provided always that if any person or persons Certified, assessed or Rated for or in respect of any estate for which by this Act he or they is or may be rated, do find him or themselves agrieved with such rateing, & do at any time before the same rate becomes payable complain to the Assessors that Signed or allowed his or their rates, who shall within ten days after such Complaints particularly Examine the person Complaining or any other person touching the value of the Complainants real & personal estate, & thereupon the said Assessors shall abate default or increase the said Assessments according as the Complainants shall appear to be worth either by the parties own attest or proof of others.

And Be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid That the said Collectrs shall gather & receive the respective Sums assessed as aforesaid in Current money of this province, Or for want thereof in good Merchantable Countrey Product at the Current Market price according to Law at such convenient place or places as the Assessors shall Appoint, Any Law, usage or Custom for the Assessing & Raising of County Levies or Charges in this Government to the contrary hereof in any wise Notwithstanding.

A.P.S., Original Laws of Pennsylvania from 1693 to 1700, f. 85.
H.S.P., Cadwalader Collection. Act of November 7, 1696, chapter 3.
See Vol. II St.L. 34, ch. XXXII.

CHAPTER 125.

THE LAW FOR PREVENTING OF HOGS & C RUNNING AT LARGE IN THE TOWN OF CHESTER.

Whereas Complaint has been made That goats & Hoggs and other Swine running at large in the Town of Chester (alias Upland) in this