
SESSION OF MAY 1699

CHAPTER 141.

THE LAW CONCERNING ELECTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES IN COUNCIL &
ASSEMBLY.

Wheras this Government By the Laws and Constitutions Thereof is to Consist of the Governor or his Deputie or Deputies and Freemen of this Province and Territories in Form of a Councell and Assembly which from and after the Tenth Day of the first month 1696 were to Consist of two Persons out of each County as the peoples Representatives In Councill & four persons out of Each county to Serve In Assembly, For the Electing of whom the said Freemen have Lyberty To meet Together on the Tenth Day of the first Month Yearly in the most Convenient and Usual Place of Election within the Respective Countys Then and there to Choose their said Representatives

And whereas the Freemen of the County of New Castle having Neglected to make their Choyce of Representatives on the Tenth day of March last Past, The Governor Sent his Writt Requiring the Sherrif of that County to Summon the Said Freemen to Meet in the Usual Place of Election the first Day of the Third Month Instant when and where a Considerable Number of them Came but utterly Refused to make any Choyce of Representatives, to the great Contempt of the Governor and of the Powers and Authority of this Government and a most manifest Slight of that Inestimable Priviledge of being Represented in Legislation by persons of their own Choyce; Now forasmuch as there is no Law of this Government That Directs the Punishment or Penalty which ought to be Inflicted upon the Counties So Neglecting and refusing nor upon Such Sherrifs as shall refuse or Neglect the Duty or their Offices in that Behalf—Therefore it is Enacted by the Governor, Councell & Assembly of this Province and Territories and by the Authority of the Same That if the Freemen of any of the Countyes within this Province and Territories Shall Neglect or refuse

to Elect their said Representatives according to the Tenor and Direction of a Law Past in Generall Assembly held at Philadelphia in the Ninth Month which was in the year 1696 Entituled the Frame of Government of the Province of Pensilvania and Territories therto Belonging Then and in Such Case the People and Inhabitants of the Countie or Counties soe offending Shall be amerced by the governor and Major part of the members of Councell for the Time being att their first Sitting next after Such Neglect or refusall happens In the Sum of one hundred Pounds in Lawfull Current Money of Pensilvania To be Leavied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattells of any four or more of the Said Inhabitants So as aforesaid refusing or Neglecting to Elect which Said Sum or Levy So to be Leavied with all Costs and Damages Sustained Shall be Deemed as a County Charge and shall be rated and Assessed Accordingly for the Reimbursement of the Persons upon whom the Same Shall be Leavied, And be it further Enacted that if the Sherriff of any County or Counties within this Province and Territories Shall refuse or Neglect the Duty of his Office In the Said Elections or Shall withstand Prevent or Discourage the Same Such Sherrif or Sherrifs So offending Shall be Amercd in the Sum of Fifty Pound money aforesaid. And it is further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That if any of the Persons Elected will not appear or doe Willfully Absent themselves from their Service In Councell or Assembly Respectively Then he or they so Absenting Shall be fined (to witt) Councell Members by the Councell, And Assembly Members by the Assembly in any Sum not Exceeding Twenty Shillings per Day All which Amercements or Levy of Money Accrewing by this Act shall be Leavied by Warrants from the Governor and Councell Directed to the Coroner or Coroners of the Respective Counties and payd into The Treasury and Provinciall Stock for the use and Service of the Government Provided allways that if So many of the Said Counties Shall happen to Neglect or Refuse to make Elections or Absent themselves as Aforesaid wherby a Quorum as Required by the Said Frame of Government Cannot be had in both Councell and Assembly Respectively Then it shall and may be Lawfull to and for the Members of Councell and Assembly that doe Meet with the Governor or his Deputies as

aforesaid to Act and Proceed in all Matters Requisite and Necessary for Executing the Powers of Government.

A.P.S., Original Laws of Pennsylvania from 1693 to 1700, f. 137.
H.S.P. Cadwalader Collection. Act of May 18, 1699, chapter 1. See chapter 154, 1700.

CHAPTER 142.

THE LAW FOR THE CONTINUATION OF AN ACT ENTITULED THE LAW FOR THE SPEEDY COLLECTING THE AREARAGES OF THE ASSESSMENT LAYD IN THE YEAR 1696.

Whereas there was an Act made In the Year 1697 Entituled The Law for the Speedy Collecting the Arearages of the Assessment Layd in 1696 which was to Continue & be In force untill the Rising of this Assembly and Twenty Days after, And whereas there was a Law made In the Year 1698 for the Continuing of the Said Law for one Year more after the rising of the last Generall Assembly But the Receiver of the Said Tax Reporting that Divers of the Collectors have not as Yet Brought in their Respective Sums they Stand Chargd withall, And that it is Requisite That the said Law be Continued for the Collecting the Said Arearages Be it Enacted And it is hereby Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the Said Law Entituled as aforesaid and every Branch and part thereof be and is hereby Continued To be in full force untill the Said Arearages be fully Gathered.

A.P.S., Original Laws of Pennsylvania from 1693 to 1700, f. 141.
H.S.P. Cadwalader Collection. Act of May 18, 1699, chapter 2. Continued chapter 129, 1696. See also chapter 137, 1698.

CHAPTER 143.

THE LAW FOR RAISING THE RATE OF ONE PENNY PER POUND & SIX SHILLINGS PER HEAD FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT & THE PAY-