

CHAPTER CCCXCVII.

AN ACT FOR PREVENTING BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION IN THE ELECTION OF SHERIFFS AND CORONERS WITHIN THIS PROVINCE.

Whereas such persons as stand candidates for being elected and returned for the office of sheriff and coroner within this province make it too frequently their practice to engage persons to vote for them by giving them strong drink, and using other means inconsistent with the design of voting freely at elections, by means whereof many unguarded persons are unwarily drawn in to engage their votes and rendered altogether incapable of discharging their duty in that sober and weighty manner the occasion requires, but become more particularly disorderly at those times, whereby great confusions and mischiefs arise:

For preventing whereof,

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Honorable James Hamilton, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor under the Honorable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania and counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware, by and with the advice and consent of the representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That if any person or persons within this government, after the publication of this act, who shall stand a candidate or candidates, or make interest by him or themselves or others to be elected and returned for the office of sheriff or coroner, shall presume by him or themselves or any other person or persons whatsoever to procure him or themselves to be voted for or elected for the office of sheriff or coroner as aforesaid by giving to any person or persons, either by themselves or others in their behalf or for their use or purpose, any gratuity, wages, gift, bribe, strong drink of any kind, treats, entertainments or any other reward whatsoever, or shall covenant, engage, promise or procure so to be done by him or themselves or any other person

or persons, every person or persons so offending shall, for every such offense forfeit the sum of ten pounds to any person who will sue for the same, to be recovered by action of debt in any court of record within this province with costs of suit, and be incapable to serve the office of sheriff or coroner for that year. And every person whatsoever who shall by himself or any other person or persons for his or their use or by his or their means or procurement presume to take, accept or receive any such gratuity, gift, bribe, strong drink, treats, entertainments or other reward whatsoever, as aforesaid, for giving any vote or votes, [or causing or procuring any vote or votes] to be given to any such candidate or candidates, or person or persons making interest by him or themselves or others as aforesaid to be elected and returned to serve in the office of sheriff or coroner as aforesaid, every person or persons so offending shall for every such offense forfeit the sum of five pounds, to be recovered in the manner directed by law for the recovery of debts of five pounds or under.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That before any sheriff shall receive his commission or exercise any part of his said office within this province he shall put in sufficient sureties into the office of the master of the rolls of this province, and there shall enter into bond or obligation, together with at least two freeholders, inhabitants of the respective counties, viz., the sheriff of the city and county of Philadelphia, in the sum of two thousand pounds current money of Pennsylvania; the sheriff of the county of Bucks, in the sum of six hundred pounds money aforesaid; the sheriff of the county of Chester, in the sum of six hundred pounds money aforesaid; the sheriff of the county of Lancaster, in the sum of six hundred pounds money aforesaid; the sheriff of the county of York, in the sum of six hundred pounds money aforesaid; the sheriff of the county of Cumberland, in the sum of six hundred pounds money aforesaid; the sheriff of the county of Berks in the sum of three hundred pounds money aforesaid; and the sheriff of the county of Northampton, in the sum of three hundred pounds in like money; upon like conditions and trusts, and to be recorded and put in suit and judgment thereupon to be obtained in like

manner and for such uses as in and by an act passed in the fourth year of the reign of Queen Anne, entitled "An act for regulating elections of sheriffs and coroners,"¹ is directed, required and enjoined, anything in the said law or any other act of general assembly of this province contained notwithstanding.

Passed March 11, 1752. Confirmed by the King in Council May 10, 1753. See Appendix XIX, Section I.

As to Section I, see (the Constitution of 1776, Plan of Government, Section XXXII;) and the Acts of Assembly passed September 13, 1785, Chapter 1175; February 15, 1799, Chapter 2020; July 2, 1839, P. L. 519; March 31, 1860, P. L. 382; (the Constitution of 1873, Article VIII, Section VIII;) April 18, 1874, P. L. 64; June 8, 1881, P. L. 70; May 9, 1889, P. L. 162.

As to Section II, see notes to the Acts of Assembly passed January 12, 1705-6, Chapter 161, August 24, 1717, Chapter 222. This section was repealed by the Act of Assembly passed September 26, 1767, Chapter 568.

CHAPTER .CCCXCVIII.

AN ACT FOR REGULATING AND ESTABLISHING FEES.

For preventing of extortion and undue exaction of fees by the several officers and practitioners of law in this province and to the end that all fees may be limited and reduced to certainty:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Honorable James Hamilton, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor under the Honorable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania and counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware, by and with the advice and consent of the representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That the fees of the several officers and practitioners of law in this province shall be as hereinafter is ascertained, limited and appointed, viz.:

That [the] fees belonging to the Keeper of the Great Seal of this province shall be as follows, viz.:

¹ Passed January 12, 1705-6, Chapter 161.