

CHAPTER DCXCIX.

AN ACT FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS PROVINCE
AND PAYMENT OF THE PUBLIC DEBTS.¹

Whereas by virtue of an act of general assembly passed in the thirty-first year of the reign of His late Majesty George the Second, entitled "An act for granting to His Majesty a duty of tonnage upon ships and vessels, and also certain duties upon wine, rum, brandy and other spirits and a duty upon sugar for supporting and maintaining the provincial ship of war for protecting the trade of this province, and other purposes for His Majesty's service,"² there remains in the provincial treasurer's hands a surplus of two pounds ten shillings and seven pence half penny unappropriated:

And whereas by virtue of one other act of general assembly passed in the third year of His present Majesty's reign, entitled "An act for granting to His Majesty the sum of twenty-four thousand pounds for the defense and protection of this province, and for other purposes therein mentioned,"³ there remains in the hands of the provincial treasurer a surplus of seven hundred and one pounds eleven shillings unappropriated:

And whereas by virtue of one other act of general assembly passed in the eighth year of His present Majesty's reign, entitled "An act for raising and applying the sum of three thousand pounds towards removing the present discontent of the Indians, regaining their friendship, and for other purposes therein mentioned,"⁴ there remains in the hands of the provincial treasurer a surplus of three pounds nine shillings unappropriated:

And whereas in and by one other act of general assembly

¹ The original roll of this act is missing; and therefore it has been compared with the copy in the Act Books.

² Passed April 29, 1758, Chapter 432.

³ Passed October 22, 1763, Chapter 505.

⁴ Passed February 17, 1768, Chapter 571.

passed in the twelfth year of His present Majesty's reign, entitled "An act for the support of the government of this province, making the excise on wine, rum, brandy and other spirits more equal, and preventing frauds in the collecting and paying the said excise,"¹ the sum of twenty-five thousand pounds in bills of credit was deposited in the hands of the provincial treasurer, who was thereby directed to pay off and discharge with the said bills all such drafts and certificates as had been before the passing of the same act drawn and made by order of assembly for the payment of public debts, and it was further declared and enacted that the surplus of the said bills should be disposed of by act of general assembly:

And whereas in and by one another act of general assembly passed in the twelfth year of His present Majesty's reign, entitled "An act for the support of the government of this province and the payment of the public debts,"² a part of the said surplus was disposed of and applied to the payment of the public debts:

And whereas in and by one another act of general assembly passed in the thirteenth year of His present Majesty's reign, entitled "An act for the support of the government of this province and payment of the public debts,"³ a further part of the said surplus was disposed of and applied to the payment of the public debts:

And whereas after the payment of the debts so as aforesaid directed to be paid by the last recited act there yet remains the sum of seven thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine pounds six shillings and a penny unappropriated by the legislature, and we the representatives of the freemen of this province, being desirous to support the honor and dignity of government and discharge the public debts, do pray that it may be enacted:

[Section I.] And be it enacted by the Honorable John Penn, Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania, by and with the consent and advice of the representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General As-

¹ Passed March 21, 1772, Chapter 656.

² Passed September 19, 1772, Chapter 670.

³ Passed September 28, 1773, Chapter 688.

sembly met, and by the authority of the same, That the said provincial treasurer shall and he is hereby enjoined and required to apply and appropriate towards the payment and discharge of all such certificates, drafts and orders as have been heretofore made by order of assembly in the first place the said several sums of two pounds ten shillings and seven pence half penny, seven hundred and one pounds eleven shillings and three pounds nine shillings, and afterwards so much of the said bills of credit deposited in his hands by virtue of the said act, entitled "An act for the support of the government of this province, making the excise on wine, rum, brandy and other spirits more equal and preventing frauds in the collecting and paying the said excise,"¹ and remaining unappropriated by the legislature, as shall be necessary to discharge the said certificates, drafts and orders.

Passed September 29, 1774. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, February 20, 1775, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXXI, and the Act of Assembly passed September 30, 1775, Chapter 715.

¹ Passed March 21, 1772, Chapter 656.