

the authority aforesaid, That nothing in this act contained shall extend to discharge the person of the said prisoners, respectively, from imprisonment or being liable to be sued, prosecuted or imprisoned for any debt due to the Crown, and that the said debts shall be first paid by the said assignees out of the moneys, if sufficient, which shall come to their hands from the effects so assigned, nor for any debt due to any distant or absent creditor to whom notice shall not have been given pursuant to the directions of this act.

[Section IV.] Provided also, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the said Richard Taylor, Jacob Muck, George Jacob Hausman, Richard Ray, Francis Owens and James Mackay, respectively, shall upon any indictment for taking a false and corrupt oath or affirmation in any matter or thing contained in the said oath or affirmation be convicted by his or their own confession or by the verdict of twelve men, he and they shall suffer all the pains, penalties and disabilities which by law may be inflicted on persons convicted of willful and corrupt perjury, and shall likewise be liable to be arrested, taken and imprisoned upon any process *de novo* and charged in execution for the same debt in the same manner as if he or they had never been in execution or discharged before, and shall forever after be barred of any benefit of this act.

Passed November 23, 1775. Probably not submitted to the Crown for action. See Appendix XXXIII.

CHAPTER DCCXVII.

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES IN ASSEMBLY FOR THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, AND IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES THEREIN NAMED.

Whereas it is essential to [the] good government of every free state that all its component parts should have a just and adequate share in the legislature:

And whereas the city of Philadelphia and the several counties hereinafter particularly n[amed] have not at this time such share in the legislature of this province:

For remedy whereof:

[Section I.] 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 Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That the freeholders and inhabitants of the respective wards, townships and districts in the said city and counties, respectively, qualified by the laws of this province to elect members of assembly, shall meet at some convenient place within their respective townships, wards and districts on the twenty-fifth day of April next and proceed to choose inspectors as is directed by the laws of this province in such cases, having had due and legal [notice of] such meeting by person or persons appointed by law for that purpose, which they are hereby enjoined and required to give under the same pains and penalties as are inflicted for neglect of duty in the like cases by law. And that the freeholders and inhabitants of the said city of Philadelphia and the freeholders and inhabitants of the counties of Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Berks, Northampton, Bedford, Northumberland and Westmoreland, respectively, qualified by the charter and laws of this province to vote at the general elections for said [city] and counties, respectively, shall on the first day of May next meet in the said city and counties, respectively, at the usual places for holding general elections in the said city and counties, respectively, and elect an additional number of burgesses, re[presenta]tives or delegates to serve them in general assembly: for the city of Philadelphia four, for the county of Lancaster two, for the county of York two, for the county of Cumberland two for the county of Berks two, for the county of Northampton two, for the county of Bedford one, for the county of Northumberland one, and for the county of Westmoreland one, in the same manner as by the charter and laws of this province is directed in respect to the choice of other members for the said city and counties, respectively, which said burgesses, representatives or dele-

gates so chosen and returned as the laws of this province in such cases direct shall be members of the general assembly of this province of Pennsylvania and sit and act as such as fully and freely as any of the burgesses or representatives for the said city and counties, respectively, or the other counties within this province do, may, can or ought to do.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted, That on the day following the holding the general election for the county of Philadelphia yearly forever hereafter, unless it happen on Sunday and then the day after, the freeholders and inhabitants of the said city qualified as aforesaid shall meet at the state house in the said city and elect for the said city six burgesses, representatives or delegates to serve them in assembly, and that the freeholders and inhabitants of the said counties of Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Berks, Northampton, Bedford, Northumberland and Westmoreland shall meet on the first day of October next and yearly forever hereafter, unless it happen [on a Sunday] and then the day following, at the court-house in the said respective counties where court-houses are already erected and in such counties as have not erected court-houses then until court-houses shall be built at the places where general elections for such counties have been usually held, and elect for the county of Lancaster six, for the county of York four, for the county of Cumberland four, for the county of Berks four, for the county of Northampton four, for the county of Bedford two, for the county of Northumberland two, and for the county of Westmoreland two representatives or delegates to serve them in assembly in the same manner as by the charter and laws of this province is directed in respect to the representatives or delegates of the other counties of this province, which said representatives when so chosen in the said city [and] respective counties aforesaid shall be members of the general assembly of this province of Pennsylvania and shall sit and act as such as fully and freely as any of the representatives for the other counties within this province do, may, can or ought to do.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted, That notice shall be given in writing and shall be proclaimed in the most public places of the said city and of the capital, town or place where

such election is to be of the time and place of such election by the sheriff of the counties, respectively, and the said sheriff shall cause copies of such notice or advertisement to be posted upon some house in the way leading from every township or precinct to the town or place where the said election is to be, as also upon [the court] houses and most public places in every township in the said respective counties, at least fifteen days before the time of such election.

[Section IV.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That so much of the several acts of general assembly of this province as relates to the allowing the said city and the several and respective counties aforesaid a less number of representatives or delegates to serve in general assembly for the said city and counties, respectively, than is hereby directed shall be and is hereby declared to be repealed.

Provided nevertheless, That the members of assembly already chosen under the same shall be and continue to act until the first day of October next as fully and freely as if this act had never been made.

Passed March 23, 1776. Probably not submitted to the Crown for action. See Appendix XXXIII, and the note to the Act of Assembly passed January 12, 1705-6, Chapter 137; (the Constitution of 1776, Plan of Government, Sections 17, 18;) and the Act of Assembly passed September 24, 1779, Chapter 847.

CHAPTER DCCXVIII.

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE KEEPERS OF RECORDS IN THE COUNTIES OF PHILADELPHIA AND CHESTER TO REMOVE THEM TO MORE SAFE AND CONVENIENT PLACES.

Whereas the preservation and security of the public records and more especially those in several offices kept in the city of Philadelphia are of the utmost importance to all the inhabitants of this province and great confusion and mischief would ensue if by any accident they should be destroyed or lost: