

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assembly for the said city and counties, respectively, than is hereby directed shall be and is hereby declared to be repealed.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:

For the prevention 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 it shall and may be lawful for the master of the rolls, trustees of the general loan office, the register general, the recorder of deeds, the prothonotaries of the supreme court and common pleas, the secretary of the land office, the surveyor-general, and the clerks of the several courts of the city and county of Philadelphia, and they are hereby required upon any danger or just apprehensions thereof to remove the several records, books and papers belonging to their respective offices to some safe and convenient place or places.

Provided, That no such removal be made until the same be signified to the chief justice or some other justice of the supreme court or to two aldermen of the city and their consent and approbation of the time and place of such removal under their hands be first had and obtained.

[Section II.] And be it also further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the prothonotary of the common pleas, clerk of the orphans' court and sessions, recorder of deeds and deputy register of the county of Chester, and he is hereby in like manner required upon any danger or just apprehensions thereof to remove the several records, books and papers belonging to the said offices from the borough of Chester to some safe and convenient place or places.

Provided also, That no such removal be made until the approbation of the chief justice or other justice of the supreme court or of two justices of the peace of the said county both as to time and place be had and obtained in writing as aforesaid.

[Section III.] And be it also further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any of the said records should be removed by virtue of and in pursuance of this act and such danger or apprehensions thereof [should] cease, it shall and may be lawful for the keepers of the said records, books and papers and they are hereby required to return the same to their former places, the

direction and approbation of the said judges or justices being in like manner first had and obtained; and that this act continue and be in force for the space of five years and from thence to the end of the next sitting of assembly and no longer.

Passed March 23, 1776. Probably not submitted to the Crown for action. See Appendix XXXIII, and the Acts of Assembly passed December 20, 1777, Chapter 769; April 1, 1778, Chapter 798; August 19, 1778, Chapter 801. Expired.

CHAPTER DCCXIX.

AN ACT TO CONTINUE PART OF AN ACT MADE IN THE ELEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HIS PRESENT MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE THIRD, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR REGULATING AND CONTINUING THE NIGHTLY WATCH, ENLIGHTENING THE STREETS, LANES AND ALLEYS OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED," AND FOR MAKING FURTHER PROVISION FOR THE BETTER EXECUTING THE SAID ACT.¹

Whereas an act made in the eleventh year of the reign of His present Majesty King George the Third, entitled "An act for regulating and continuing the nightly watch, enlightening the streets, lanes and alleys of the city of Philadelphia and for other purposes therein mentioned,"¹ will soon expire by its own limitation:

And whereas the continuance of the said act with some curity of the inhabitants of the said city:

[Section I.] Be it therefore enacted by the Honorable John Penn, Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania, 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 said act and every clause, matter and thing therein contained (except only where the same is hereby altered and varied) be and is hereby declared to be in full force and made perpetual.

¹ Passed March 9, 1771, Chapter 636.