

CHAPTER DCCXLIX.

A SUPPLEMENT TO "AN ACT DIRECTING THE MODE AND TIMES OF ELECTING JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA AND THE SEVERAL COUNTIES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED."

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas by an act of this general assembly passed the twenty-eighth day of January last past, entitled "An act directing the mode and time of electing justices of the peace for the city of Philadelphia and the several counties in this commonwealth and for other purposes therein mentioned,"¹ the time for electing of justices of the peace as directed by the said act has in some instances been found too short, and in others, by reason of the march of the militia, it has been found inconvenient by which means some parts of this state may be deprived of the benefit of the administration of justice wherefrom great evils may arise to many of the good people:

For remedy whereof:

[Section I] (Section II, P. L.) Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for the commissioners and assessors or any five of them of the county of Philadelphia who have been elected under the present constitution of this commonwealth and they are hereby directed and required to meet together at the house of Jacob Neaff in the said county on the twenty-fourth day of this instant March and divide the county of Philadelphia into twelve districts, and thereof immediately to advertise the inhabitants of each district and to do every matter and thing of the said commissioners and assessors required in the same manner and under the same penalties as set forth in the act to which this is a supplement; and the freeholders of the several districts in the said county are on the day which the said commissioners and assessors shall

¹ Passed February 5, 1777, Chapter 739 (Date in text error.)

appoint for the purpose of electing to proceed to the election of the justices of the peace in their respective districts in the same manner as is by the said act directed for electing justices, who when chosen shall be held and deemed as legally elected as if the same had been done on the day appointed by the said act, anything therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

(Section III, P. L.) And whereas many of the militia of Northampton and other counties are now and some others may be in actual service whereby several of the districts in the said county have been or may be deprived of their right in the choice of their justices of the peace according to the intention of the said act:

[Section II] (Section IV, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the commissioners and assessors or any five of them of the said county of Northampton or such other counties as aforesaid to advertise the freeholders of such district or districts to meet together on the third Tuesday in April next at some convenient place within the said district respectively in order to choose their justices of the peace, that they may be commissioned accordingly, and if the freeholders of any township or townships in this state which by the said act is made a district shall neglect to elect justices on the day therein mentioned, the freeholders of every such district are hereby authorized to appoint such time and place as may suit their convenience within three months hereafter and elect justices as by the said act is directed.

(Section V, P. L.) And whereas the freeholders of several of the wards in the city of Philadelphia have neglected to elect justices of the peace as by the said act was directed, and it may happen that some other parts of the state may also neglect to elect justices at the time in the said act and by this act directed:

[Section III] (Section VI, P. L.) Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That where any such neglect has been or may be at the time by the above recited act or by this act directed for the election of justices for any district in any or either of the said counties, the commissioners and assessors of such county or counties or any five of them (in such county or counties where they are directed so to do by the said act) are hereby enjoined

and required to appoint a time and place for election of justices of the peace for such district and give notice thereof to the freeholders, who shall hold the said election and in all things relating thereto, act and do agreeable to the directions of the act to which this act is a supplement and when they shall have elected justices they shall be deemed and taken to be justices of the peace as in and by the said act declared.

(Section VII, P. L.) And whereas it has been represented to this assembly that the inhabitants of the borough of Chester express a dissatisfaction that they have but one justice of the peace allotted to them, inasmuch as other boroughs have more:

(Section VIII, P. L.) And whereas it may happen that some district or districts may yet neglect to elect justices notwithstanding this act:

[Section IV] (Section IX, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in any or either of the said cases on application being made in writing by twenty or more of the freeholders of the borough of Chester or of any such other district to the president of this state, it shall be lawful for the president in council to appoint and commissionate one or more justice or justices of the peace as the case may require for the said borough or district respectively, anything in this or the act to which this is a supplement to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed March 15, 1777. See the note to the Act of Assembly passed February 5, 1777, Chapter 739. The act in the text was repealed by the Act of Assembly passed March 31, 1784, Chapter 1093.

CHAPTER DCCL.

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE MILITIA OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas a militia law upon just and equitable principles hath ever been regarded as the best security of liberty and the most effectual means of drawing forth and exerting the natural strength of a state: