

CHAPTER DCCLXXXV.

AN ACT FOR MAKING COMPENSATION TO THOSE WHOSE SERVANTS
AND APPRENTICES HAVE BEEN ENLISTED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas a great number of servants and apprentices have been enlisted into the continental army in the said several regiments lately raised for the quota of this commonwealth, by which the public service has been promoted and the private interest of the masters and mistresses greatly endangered:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That the master or mistress of any servant or apprentice heretofore enlisted into any one of the regiments raised by this state for the continental army shall and may exhibit his or her indenture or bring other sufficient proof, to the next justice of the peace in any county of this commonwealth and make it appear to such justice that his or her servant or servants, apprentice or apprentices were enlisted into one of the said regiments and how long such servant or servants, apprentice or apprentices had to serve at the time [of] such enlistment and that he, she or they have not received any compensation for the same: And the said justice shall thereupon call to his assistance two reputable freeholders of the county, and the said justice and freeholders shall and they are hereby authorized and empowered to adjudge and determine what compensation such master or mistress shall have for the loss of his or her servant or apprentice; and the said justice and freeholders shall thereupon draw an order on the county treasurer for the sum so adjudged and determined as a compensation for such loss to be paid out of the state taxes; and the said money shall be paid by the said treasurer to the bearer thereof, and the same order and receipt shall

be received from him by the treasurer of this commonwealth in payment for the sum or sums therein specified.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) Provided always, and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said justices and freeholders shall not be empowered to allow more than at the rate of twelve pounds for each year which such servant may have had to serve; nor more than at the rate of eight pounds for each year which such apprentice may have had to serve at the time of such enlistment, proper regard being always had for freedom dues, and other allowances specified in the indentures or other agreements.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) And provided also, That no master shall receive any compensation for the loss of his servant or apprentice, who shall not have taken the oath or affirmation of allegiance to this state at the time of his application to the justice.

Passed March 12, 1778.

CHAPTER DCCLXXXVI.

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO DISCOURAGE DESERTION AND TO PUNISH ALL SUCH PERSONS AS SHALL HARBOR OR CONCEAL DESERTERS." ¹

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas by an act of general assembly of this commonwealth for the apprehending deserters from the armies of the United States of America, twenty shillings reward was granted, additional to the reward ordered by Congress, to every person for each deserter which they should apprehend and secure within this state: Yet notwithstanding it may be necessary for the benefit of the United States and for hastening [the] to [sic] completion of the quota of troops for this state, to give still further encouragement:

Therefore:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it enacted, and it is hereby

¹ Passed February 20, 1777, Chapter 744.