

with the concurrence of the magistrates of the county of Chester, shall as soon as may be, cause a new bridge to be built at the place where the old bridge formerly stood, leaving at least twenty feet clear between the timber or stone work, and not less than eighteen feet in breadth and eight feet headway at high water for the easy passage of rafts, flats, shallops and other crafts and that the said bridge shall be made fast and close continued from one side of the creek to the other without any draw or opening for a mast; anything in the said act of general assembly to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That so much of the said recited act to which this is a supplement as is herein altered or amended, is hereby declared to be repealed, and of no further force or effect.

Passed September 3, 1778. See the note to the Act of Assembly passed August 14, 1725, Chapter 288.

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## CHAPTER DCCCIX.

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### AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE EXPORTATION OF PROVISIONS FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR A LIMITED TIME.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas it is highly expedient to preserve within this state such articles of the produce thereof as may be necessary for the support of the inhabitants of the same or for the use of the United States of America:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas the restraining of the exportation of provisions may have a tendency to distress our enemies, and greatly weaken their operations against us by withholding from them the supplies they frequently obtain by capturing our vessels trading from this state:

Therefore:

[Section I.] (Section III, P. L.) Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representative of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the

authority of the same, That an embargo be and it hereby is laid to prohibit the exportation of wheat, flour, rye, Indian corn, rice, bread, beef, pork, bacon, live stock, and other provisions from this state, from and after the publication of this act, until the fifteenth day of November next.

(Section IV, P. L.) Provided always, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the taking on board such provisions as shall be necessary for the stores, only, of any ships or vessels of war or others trading to and from this state.

[Section II.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any wheat, flour, rye, Indian corn, rice, bread, beef, pork, bacon, live stock, or other provisions whatsoever, except as before excepted, shall at any time hereafter be laden or found on board any ship or vessel in any port of this state outward bound for sea, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, it shall and may be lawful for the naval officer or officers of such port or their deputies or any other person or persons whatsoever, to seize such wheat, flour, rye, Indian corn, rice, bread, beef, pork, bacon, live stock, or other provisions, together with the ship or vessel in which the same shall be so laden and found and such vessel, together with the aforesaid articles as shall be so laden or found on board her at the time of such seizure, are hereby declared to be forfeited, one-third part thereof to the use of the state, one-third part to the use of the naval or other officer making such seizure, and the remaining third part to the use of the informer or informers on whose information the same shall be so seized and prosecuted to condemnation.

(Section VI, P. L.) And whereas it may happen that the situation of the war and of public affairs, may be so altered before the said fifteenth day of November, as to permit the exportation of provisions without danger:

[Section III.] (Section VII, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the supreme executive council may at any time before the said fifteenth day of November by proclamation under their seal revoke the said embargo and prohibition, anything in this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed September 7, 1778. See the Acts of Assembly passed November 17, 1778, Chapter 817; April 3, 1779, Chapter 841; February 28, 1780, Chapter 876; September 22, 1780, Chapter 917; December 22, 1780, Chapter 922; February 27, 1781, Chapter 928; June 7, 1781, Chapter 943.

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CHAPTER DCCCX.

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AN ACT FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE DUTIES ON NEGROES AND MULATTO SLAVES, WHICH ON THE FOURTH DAY OF JULY, ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX, WERE DUE TO THIS STATE AND HAVE SINCE ACCRUED, AND FOR APPOINTING A COLLECTOR OF THE SAID DUTIES.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas by an act of the general assembly of the former government of Pennsylvania passed the fourteenth day of March one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one, entitled "An act for laying a duty on negroes and mulatto slaves imported in this province,"<sup>1</sup> a duty of ten pounds was laid on every negro and mulatto slave imported, landed or brought into the said province for sale. And several other regulations were made for collecting and applying the said duty:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas by another act of the said general assembly passed the twenty-sixth day of February one thousand seven hundred and seventy-three, the additional duty of ten pounds was laid on every negro and mulatto slave imported, and not excepted in the said first-mentioned act.

(Section III, P. L.) And whereas upon the declaration of the independence of this and the rest of the United States of America, the office of the collector of the said duties has been vacated and no new officer appointed by the legislature of this state. In consequence whereof the entries of negroes and mulatto slaves since brought into this state could not be properly made and the duties laid on them collected. For remedying whereof, and that the said duties may be collected and recovered, and that all the regulations made by the aforesaid two acts of general assembly may for the future be put in due execution:

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<sup>1</sup> Passed March 14, 1761, Chapter 467.