

Laws enacted in the Second Sitting of the Fourth General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which commenced at Philadelphia, on Wednesday, the nineteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord 1780.

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CHAPTER DCCCLXXVI.

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AN ACT FOR LAYING AN EMBARGO ON THE EXPORTATION OF PROVISIONS FROM THIS STATE BY SEA FOR A LIMITED TIME.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the last harvest of wheat and other grain, in this and the neighboring states hath not proved so abundant as it was supposed, and it is highly necessary that the exportation of victuals and provisions from this state by sea should be prohibited for a limited time in order to retain a sufficiency within the same for the sustentation of the inhabitants and for the armies and fleets of the United States of America and their allies:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it therefore 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 an embargo be and hereby is laid on the exportation by sea, of wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelts and Indian corn, and on all meal and flour made of wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelts or Indian corn, and on bread, rice, beef, pork, bacon and live stock, and on all other victuals and provisions for the food of man, and the exportation thereof by sea from and after the publication of this act, is hereby prohibited and forbidden until the first day of September next.

(Section III, P. L.) Provided always, That this act shall not be construed to restrain the lading upon any ship of war or other vessel which shall actually be in one of the ports of

the state such quantities of provisions as may be necessary for the stores only of such ship or vessel for the cruise or voyage of such ship or vessel; nor to the transportation by sea, or exportation of any victuals or provisions for the use of the armies or ships of the United States of America or their allies, such transportation or exportation being first certified to the supreme executive council of this commonwealth, and the license of the said council obtained for the same.

(Section IV, P. L.) Provided also, That if any time before the first day of September next, the continuance of the embargo laid by this act shall appear to be unnecessary or in case the neighboring and adjoining states shall not concur in an equal restriction upon the exportation of provisions the supreme executive council by proclamation may suspend the said embargo.

[Section II.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelts or Indian corn, or any meal or flour made of wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelts or Indian corn; or any bread, rice, beef, pork, bacon, live stock or other victuals or provisions whatsoever for the food of man, except as hereinbefore is excepted, shall be shipped or laden from and after the publication of this act on any ship or vessel within this state with design to export the same by sea contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, it shall and may be lawful for the naval officer, and he is hereby enjoined and required, on proper information, or it shall and may be lawful for any other person to enter on board any such ship or vessel and to seize all such wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelts and Indian corn and meal or flour, bread, rice, beef, pork, bacon, live stock and other victuals and provisions, together with the ship or vessel in which the same shall be found and her tackle, apparel and furniture, and all such victuals and provisions so shipped and laden contrary to this act, and the ship or vessel in which the same shall be so found, together with her tackle, apparel and furniture shall be forfeited; one-third part thereof to the use of the state, one-third part thereof to the use of the said naval officer or other person who shall seize the same and the other third part thereof to the use of the informer.

[Section III.] (Section VI, P. L.) Provided always, and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no claim for any ship or vessel or provisions seized, or pretended to be seized, in pursuance of this act shall be admitted unless security be first entered for the payment of all costs in case such seizure be condemned; and that no suit or action against the officer or person or persons making such seizure or his or their assistants shall lie unless such suit or action be brought within three months after cause shall be given.

Passed February 28, 1780. See the notes to the Acts of Assembly passed January 2, 1778, Chapter 779; November 17, 1778, Chapter 817; and the Acts of Assembly passed September 22, 1780, Chapter 917; December 22, 1780, Chapter 922; February 27, 1781, Chapter 928; June 7, 1781, Chapter 943. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p. 328, &c.

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## CHAPTER DCCCLXXVII.

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AN ACT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS ERECTED UPON THE LANDS OF DIVERS INHABITANTS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH, FOR THE USE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND VESTING SUCH LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS, IN THE UNITED STATES DURING THE PRESENT WAR AND TO PUNISH PERSONS FOR WASTE OR TRESPASSES MADE, OR COMMITTED THEREON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, in the unsettled state of public affairs during the war with Great Britain the necessities of the United Colonies or States induced their officers to take possession of the lands of divers persons, inhabitants of this commonwealth, for public use, and have, at the public expense, erected thereon barracks, hospitals, stables, storehouses and other buildings:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas, the honorable the Congress of the United States of America, by their resolve dated the twenty-third of July last, have recommended that suitable provision be made by a law for preserving the same buildings and for punishing those who shall seize upon or injure the same, and in some instances vest the ground on which such buildings are erected in the United States: