

forty-five years old, to serve for three years, if not sooner discharged, and the same recruit deliver to the lieutenant of the county, to be by him passed.

*And be it enacted*, That any able bodied slave, between sixteen and forty years of age, who voluntarily enters into the service, and is passed by the lieutenant, in the presence and with the consent, and agreement of his master, may be accepted as a recruit.

*And be it enacted*, That the lieutenants aforesaid, and the field and commissioned officers of the militia in each county, shall, within five days after the expiration of the said twenty days, meet . . . and shall proceed to examine whether each class hath found a proper effective recruit according to this act, and if any class hath not found such recruit, . . . they shall cause lots to be cast . . . and the person to whose lot it shall fall shall be from thenceforth, to every intent and purpose, considered as an enlisted soldier, to serve until the tenth day of December seventeen hundred and eighty-one, in the quota of this state of the continental troops, . . . but if such person shall, within twenty days thereafter, provide a good and sufficient recruit, to serve until the said tenth day of December in his stead, he shall be discharged; or if he shall at any time afterwards find a good and sufficient recruit in his stead, to serve for three years unless sooner discharged, he shall be discharged.

*And be it enacted*, That all recruits raised in virtue of this act shall be carried before the lieutenant of the county in which the recruits are or shall be raised, to pass muster, . . . but no imported convict who hath not served his full term of seven years, or British deserter, shall be passed as a recruit within this act.

*And*, for the discovery of deserters, and the punishment of those who entertain, harbour, or conceal them,

*Be it enacted*, That if, after the first day of March next, any free male person shall entertain, harbour, or conceal, any deserter, knowing him to be such, such person shall, upon such conviction, be considered as an enlisted regular soldier for the term of three years, and may be taken as such by any officer of the Maryland line; and if any free male person, convicted as aforesaid, shall be the father of such deserter, or of or above forty-five years of age, or unfit for the service, he shall furnish an able-bodied recruit for the war, and deliver him to the lieutenant of his county within ten days after conviction, and in case of neglect shall be liable to pay thirty-five pounds in specie, or the value thereof, to the lieutenant of his county, . . . and if any female, the mistress of any