

C H A P. XVI.

An ACT relating to the qualification of jurors.

Preamble.

WHEREAS, by an act of assembly of this state, past at the city of Annapolis on the fifth day of February, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, entitled, An act to open the courts of justice, and for other purposes, it is provided, that it shall and may be lawful for the several sheriffs of this state to summon, from their respective counties, to the general court, on their respective shores, jurors, freemen of their respective counties, of the most wisdom and experience, having a freehold of fifty acres of land in his county, or property in the state above the value of three hundred pounds current money: And whereas it is as expedient to reduce the qualification of jurors in the other courts of this state as in the general court,

Qualification of jurors.

II. *Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the end of this present session of assembly, it shall and may be lawful for the several and respective sheriffs within this state, to summon to any of the courts within their respective counties, freemen of their respective counties of the most wisdom and experience, having a freehold of fifty acres of land in his county, or property in this state above the value of three hundred pounds current money; and that no challenge shall be allowed to any person for the want of freehold, any law, custom or usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

C H A P. XVII.

An ACT of indemnity.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the governor and the council, since the last session of the general assembly, upon the requisition of congress, marched the militia of this state out of the same, for the defence of this state and the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware, before it was expressly signified that the said militia should not be subjected to the continental articles of war, nor to any other articles of war than specified in the act to regulate the militia: And whereas the governor, during the invasion of this state, delegated the power of appointing militia officers to several persons in the respective counties, and empowered others to draw money out of the treasury of the eastern shore, advising the treasurer thereof to issue such sums as the persons so empowered to draw the same should order and direct. The general assembly, having taken the premises into consideration, approve of the same:

Governor and council indemnified, &c.

II. *Be it therefore enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That the governor and the late council are and shall be indemnified, discharged and saved harmless, from and against all suits, complaints, charges and remonstrances, prosecutions and disturbances, of all persons whatsoever, for or on account of marching the militia out of this state, delegating the power of appointing militia officers, and empowering persons to draw money out of the treasury of the eastern shore.

And persons acting under them.

III. *And be it enacted,* That all and every person and persons, who have acted under the authority or by the appointment or orders of the governor, or of the governor and the council, in any of the cases herein mentioned, shall be indemnified, discharged and saved harmless, from and against all suits, complaints, charges and remonstrances, prosecutions and disturbances, of all persons whatsoever, for or on account of having acted in obedience to the authority, appointment or orders, aforesaid, in the cases herein mentioned.

Payments made by the treasurer, &c. to be allowed.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That all payments of money made by the treasurer of the eastern shore, in consequence of the advice, orders or directions, of the governor and council, are and shall be allowed, ratified and confirmed.

Proviso.

V. *Provided always, and be it enacted,* That all persons who shall have drawn public money out of the hands of the eastern shore treasurer, or who may have received the same under the authority or by order of the persons appointed by the executive branch to draw on the said treasurer, shall be accountable for the same, and shall produce