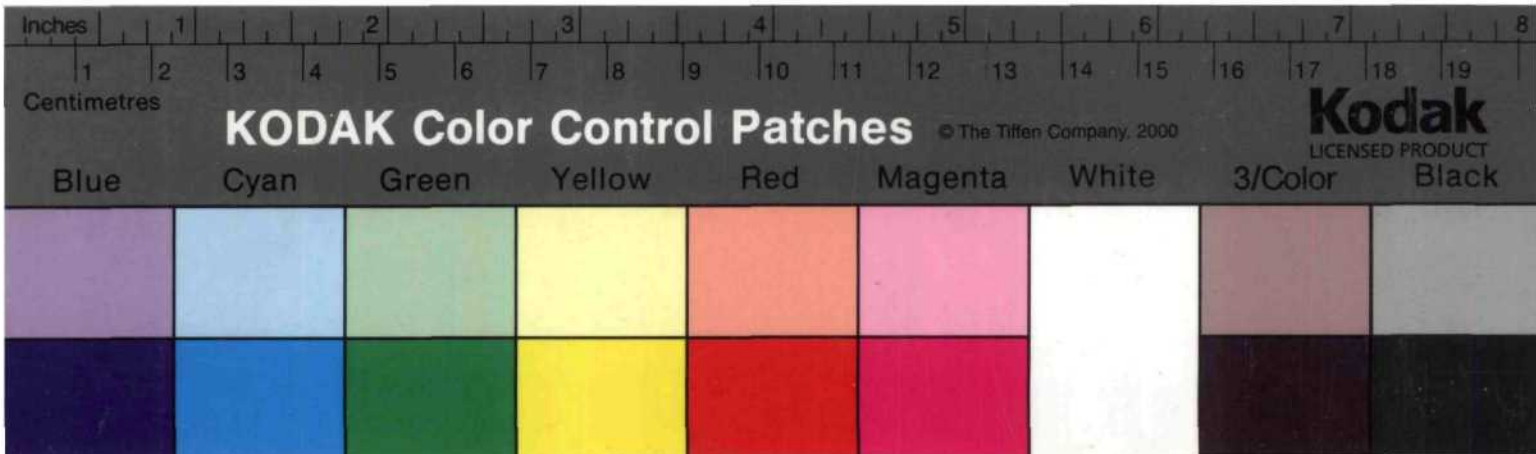


An Act to alter such parts of the Declaration of Rights, the Constitution and Form of Government as prevent persons conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath from being Witnesses in all cases.

Whereas, persons conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath, labour under many and great inconveniences owing to their not being admitted to make their solemn affirmation as Witnesses in all cases instead of an oath; Therefore,

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the people called Quakers, those called Nicolites or new Quakers, those called Dunkers and those called Menonists holding it unlawful to take an oath on any occasion, shall be allowed to make their solemn affirmation as witnesses in the manner that Quakers have been heretofore allowed to affirm, which affirmation shall be of the same avail as an oath, to all intents and purposes whatever.

And be it enacted, That before any of the persons aforesaid shall be admitted as a Witness in any Court

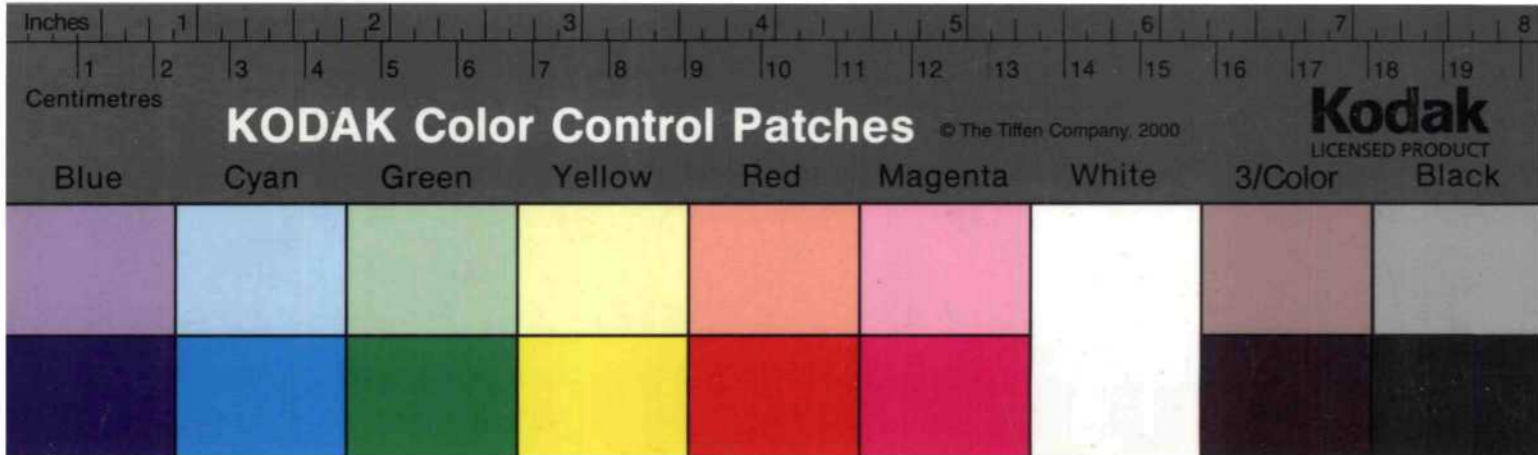


(2)

Court of Justice in this State, the Court shall be satisfied by such Testimony as they may require, that such person is one of those who profess to be conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath.

And be it enacted, That if this act shall be confirmed by the General Assembly, after the next Election of Delegates, in the first session after such new Election, as the Constitution and Form of Government directs, that in such case this act, and the alterations and amendments of the constitution and Form of Government therein contained, shall be taken and considered, and shall constitute and be valid, as part of the said Constitution and Form of Government, to all intents and purposes, any thing in the said Declaration of Rights, Constitution and Form of Government contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it enacted, That the several clauses and sections of the Declaration of Rights, Constitution and Form of Government contrary to the provisions of this act,



(3)

act, so far as they respect either of the sects or societies aforesaid,
shall be and are hereby declared to be repealed and annulled,
on the confirmation hereof

By the House of Delegates
January 21st 1798.

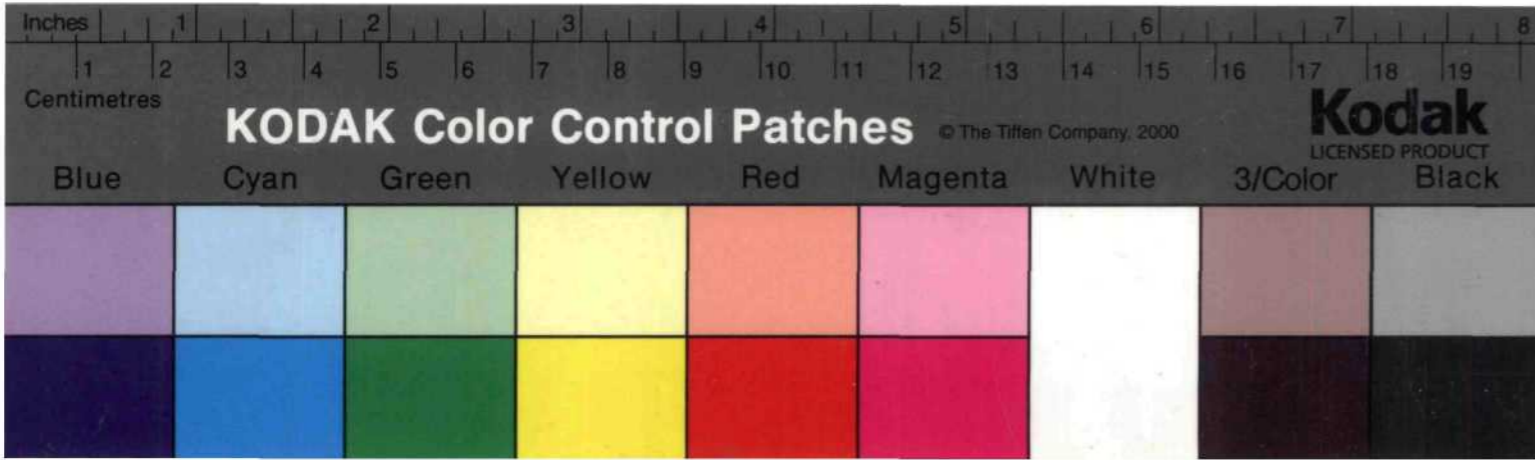
Read and assented to
By order

Wm. Harwood (th)

By the Senate
January 21st 1798.

Read and assented to
By order

Wm. Hornor
Jno. Henry



[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

Received

Ex. 33

A.M.

No. 118.

1817