

At a SESSION of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of MARYLAND, convened by the COUNCIL of SAFETY, and begun and held at the City of ANNAPOLIS, on Wednesday the fifth of February, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, the following LAWS were enacted.

C H A P. I.

An ACT for laying the Levy in *Anne-Arundel* County.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to this present General Assembly, that no List of Taxables hath been returned for several of the Hundreds and Districts in *Anne-Arundel* County, or for Part of such Hundreds and Districts, by means whereof the Justices of the Peace for said County have not as yet proceeded to lay the public Levy as usual, and by such Omission the Poor of said County, also the County Ferries and other County Charges, are not provided for. Preamble.

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Justices of the Peace for said County, now or hereafter appointed, or any three or more of them, do and shall, with all convenient Speed, after the Publication of this Act, meet together at the City of *Annapolis*, at the usual Place of holding their County Courts, and call upon the Clerk of said County to attend, and shall then and there appoint Constables, or some other fit and proper Persons, to take the List of Taxables in all such Hundreds or Parts of Hundreds in said County where the List of Taxables hath not been already taken and returned; and the said Justices, or any three or more of them, shall administer an Oath to such Constable or other Person appointed, for the faithful Execution of his Trust, and make reasonable Allowance for his Service and Trouble in the Performance of the Duty enjoined him. Justices to appoint Constables to take the List of Taxables where not already taken.

III. And be it enacted, That all and every Master or Mistress of a Family, or other Persons in said County, having the Superintendance or Command of Taxables, who shall, upon Application to him, her, or them, by such Constable or other Person so appointed, refuse to give an Account of his, her, or their Taxables (the same not having been already given and returned), such Master, Mistress, or other Person, so refusing, shall be liable to all the Penalties heretofore inflicted on those who were guilty of concealing Taxables; the said Penalty to be recovered, if twelve hundred Pounds of Tobacco or under, before a single Magistrate, as in case of small Debts; if above twelve hundred Pounds of Tobacco, then by Indictment in the County Court, and applied one third to the Informer, the remaining two thirds towards defraying the County Charges. Persons refusing to give an Account of their Taxables liable to the Penalties heretofore inflicted on Concealers of Taxables.