An ACT for the seizure and confiscation of British property within this state.

WHEREAS the king of Great-Britain, by his proclamation, and the parliament of that nation, by statute, declared the people of this state to be in rebellion, for which cause, by the law of that kingdom, the property of the people here, who had been concerned in the present glorious revolution, would have been liable to forfeiture and confiscation, and at the mercy of the cruel and tyrannical monarch of Great-Britain : And whereas the parliament of Great-Britain, by statute, declared the property of the people of this state, found and taken on the high seas, liable to seisure and confiscation, and that it was lawful and just to seize and destroy their persons and property ; in consequence whereof considerable property of the subjects of this state hath been seized on the high seas and confiscated, and considerable property within the state hath been seized and applied to the use of the British army or navy, or wantonly destroyed by the fleet or army of Great-Britain : And whereas the king and parliament of Great-Britain commenced and continue to prosecute an unjust war against the people of this and the United States, whereby this state has already been involved in a very great expence, and by the law of nations the people of Great-Britain, in their separate and collective capacity, are answerable not only for all expences incurred by this state in consequence of the war, but for any injury or damage sustained by any of the subjects of this state since the commencement of the war : And whereas this state, compelled by the tyranny of the king of Great-Britain, and the open hostilities committed by his armies and fleet, to wage war in defence of its dearest rights and liberties, was finally obliged to separate from the British empire, and to become a sovereign and independent state, whereby the subjects of Great-Britain became aliens and by prosecution of the war enemies to this state, and as such incapable of holding any property within it,