

C H A P. X.

Passed 17th
Nov. 1753.

An ACT to prevent Persons from Secreting Boats, Flats, and other Vessels, drove by Strefs of Weather or otherwise, from Landings or Moorings. *Lib. H.S. fol. 18.*

Preamble.

WHEREAS it often happens, that Flats, Boats, and other Vessels, are by Strefs of Weather, or by Ice, drove from Landings, Moorings, and Harbours, into the Bay, and from one River to another, and are taken up by Persons who secrete such Boats or Vessels: To the Intent therefore that the proper Owners may not be deprived of their Property;

Persons taking up Boats, &c. drove from their Moorings, shall give Notice in Ten Days to a Magistrate, and set up Notes thereof in Ten Days, and Advertise the same in the Gazette within 30 Days.

The Owner to pay Charges, &c.

Penalty for not performing what is required by this Act.

Proviso, if taken up on the Eastern Shore in the Winter Season.

Continuance.

II. **Be it Enacted**, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That from and after the last Day of *March* next, where any Person or Persons shall discover, take up and secure, any Flat, Boat, or other Vessel, drove from any Place of Mooring, Landing, Harbour, or River, or from any other Vessel, such Person or Persons shall, and they are hereby obliged, in Ten Days after such Discovery, Taking up, and Securing as aforesaid, to give Notice thereof to some Justice of the Peace for the County where such Flat, Boat, or other Vessel, is taken up and secured as aforesaid; which said Justice of the Peace shall, and he is hereby required, to deliver to the Party giving such Notice, an Advertisement, describing in the best Manner the Built and Marks of such Flat, Boat, or other Vessel, and the Name of such Person, and Place of his Abode; Copies of which Advertisement the said Party shall, within Ten Days after the Date thereof, cause to be set up in the most public Places of the said County, and within Thirty Days after such Date, procure the same to be inserted in the *MARYLAND GAZETTE*, and shall deliver the same Boat, or other Vessel, to the Owner thereof, upon Payment of reasonable Cost and Charges for the same; he or they first Proving the Property, by his or their own Oath, or otherwise, before some Justice of the Peace.

III. **And be it further Enacted**, That if any Person or Persons, after the said last Day of *March*, shall take up and secure, any Flat, Boat, or other Vessel, drove from any Place of Mooring, Landing, or Harbour, or from any other Vessel, and shall not do and perform what is by this Act required, shall forfeit and pay to the Owner or Owners of such Flat, Boat, or Vessel, the Sum of Fifty Shillings Current Money, to be recovered in a summary Way, before One Justice of the Peace of the County where the Party accused doth reside.

IV. **Provided always**, That in case any such Flat, Boat, or other Vessel, shall be taken up on the East Side of *Chesapeak* Bay, or the North Side of *Susquehanna* River, in the Winter Season, when it may so happen that by Reason of the Ice no Intercourse may be had with the City of *Annapolis*, that then, and in such Case, it shall and may be lawful for the Person or Persons taking such Flat, Boat, or other Vessel, into his or their Custody, or Care, to cause such Advertisement as is herein before directed, to be inserted in the *MARYLAND GAZETTE*, within Thirty Days after the Obstruction of such Intercourse or Communication with the said City of *Annapolis* shall or may be removed.

V. This Act to continue for Three Years, and unto the End of the next Session of Assembly which shall happen after the Expiration of the said Three Years.

Examined and Compared with the Original Act, REVERDY GHISELIN,
THOMAS BACON.

Farther continued 1757, *ch. 9*; and 1760, *ch. 2*, for 3 Years, &c. But by 1763, *ch. 8*, is made PERPETUAL.