

shall be forthwith sold,) and after charges deducted, the residue of the money, with an account of the whole, shall be transmitted to the treasurer, who shall keep an account of the same for the benefit of the owners or insurers, who, upon proof of his, her or their property, to the satisfaction of the auditor, shall, upon his warrant, receive the same; if any person, besides those empowered by the wreck-master, shall enter or endeavour to enter on board any vessel in distress, without the leave of the commanding officer, or in case any person shall molest him or them in saving the vessel or goods, or shall endeavour to hinder the saving such vessel or goods, or shall deface the marks of any such goods before they be taken down in a book by the wreck-master, every person shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty pounds, to be recovered, with costs, by action of debt in any court of record within this state, and applied to the use of the owners of the vessel or goods, as the case may be, and in case of failure to pay such forfeiture immediately, or giving security to pay the same within one month, he, she or they, shall receive not exceeding thirty-nine lashes on his, her or their bare back, by order of such court; it shall be lawful for any commanding officer of a vessel in distress, or the wreck-master, to repel by force any persons who shall, without consent as aforesaid, press on board any vessel in distress, and thereby molest them in preserving the vessel or goods; and in case any goods shall be found upon any person that were stolen or carried off from any vessel in distress, the person on whom such goods be found shall, upon demand, deliver the same to the owner or wreck-master, or to such other person as shall be authorized by the wreck-master or owner to receive such goods, or shall be liable to pay four times the value, to be recovered, with costs, in any court of record; if any person shall make, or be assisting in making, a hole in any vessel in distress, or steal any pump, materials or goods, or shall be aiding in stealing such pump, materials or goods, from any vessel, or shall wilfully do any thing tending to the immediate loss of such vessel, such person shall be guilty of felony, and suffer death without benefit of clergy.

C H A P.
LXXXII.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any wreck-master shall, by fraud or wilful neglect, abuse the trust reposed in him, he shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit and pay four times the damages to the party aggrieved, to be recovered, with costs, by action on the case, in any court of record, and shall thenceforth be incapable of acting as a wreck-master; any constable, or person summoned by him, refusing or neglecting to give the assistance required for the saving of any vessel, or the cargo, shall forfeit and pay, to the use of Worcester county, the sum of ten pounds, to be recovered before any justice by the wreck-master ordering the duty, and shall be moreover subject to the payment of the same damages, and to be recovered by the party aggrieved in the same manner, as in case of a wreck-master; the wreck-master shall set up a copy of this act once in every year in the court-house of the said county.

Penalty for being guilty of fraud, &c.

IV. PROVIDED ALWAYS, AND BE IT ENACTED, That the wreck-master appointed by virtue of this act shall give bond and security, in the court of the county where he resides, in the sum of one thousand pounds, for the due and faithful execution of his office; and that it shall not be lawful for such wreck-master to enter upon the duties of his office before he gives bond and security as aforesaid.

Proviso.

C H A P. LXXXIII.

An additional supplementary act to the act (a) to regulate public ferries.
Lib. JG. No. 3. fol. 348.

Passed 3d of Jan. 1800.

(a) November, 1781, ch. 22.

WHEREAS since the passage of the original act to regulate public ferries, divers individuals have set up ferries, which have been found beneficial to the public, and ought to be regulated by law, and it may happen, that by the alteration of old roads, or the laying out of new roads, leading to creeks and rivers, it may be necessary to establish new ferries, in order to render such roads serviceable to the community, and in every such case such new ferries ought also to be regulated by law; therefore,

Preamble.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That in any case where individuals have set up new ferries since the passage of the said original act, which have been found beneficial and expedient, it shall and may be lawful for the justices of the county court of the county respectively wherein such ferry shall have been so set up, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, in their discretion, to establish and regulate such ferry agreeably to the respective acts of assembly provided in such cases, and to ascertain the prices of ferriage, and the number of boats and hands to be employed, and to require the recognizance of any person keeping the same, in like manner, to all intents and purposes, as if such ferry had been kept and established at the time of the passage of the said original act.

Ferries set up to be established, &c.

III. AND