

CHAPTER 17.

Passed Jan. 24, 1867. *Entitled*, AN ACT to restore to full citizenship, and the right to vote and hold office, all persons who may be deprived thereof by the provisions contained in the fourth Section of the first Article of the Constitution of this State.

Preamble. *Whereas*, by the provisions of the fourth Section of the first Article of the Constitution of this State, a large portion of the citizens otherwise entitled to vote and hold office, have been deprived of those privileges whilst they remain liable to taxation, to the performance of Military duty, and in all other respects, subject to laws in whose enactment they can have no participation, all of which is contrary to the principles on which Republican Governments are established; and *whereas*, there is every reason to believe that the persons so deprived of the right of voting and of holding office are now faithful to the State and the Government of the United States; and *whereas*, these restrictions were designed to be temporary as is evident from the fact that power is wisely given to the General Assembly in the very Section of the Constitution which imposes such restrictions to remove them in all cases by an Act passed by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each House; and *whereas*, the reasons for such restrictions have, by the return of peace, now happily ceased to exist and it is therefore right and proper by a speedy exercise of the power so reserved to the General Assembly to re-establish and re-affirm the right of the people to participate in the Legislature, justly declared in the Declaration of Rights to be the security of liberty and the foundation of all free Government; therefore,

Restored to full rights of citizenship.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, Two-thirds of all the members elected to each House concurring, that all persons otherwise entitled to vote and hold office who may be deprived of those privileges by reason of any of the provisions of the fourth Section of the first Article of the Constitution of this State be and they