

CHAPTER 393.

AN ACT to encourage the formation of Volunteer Companies.

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this state to encourage the formation of uniform volunteer companies, as affording the most prompt and efficient means to suppress insurrection and preserve order and tranquility within our borders; therefore,

Preamble.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That every citizen of the state, above the age of eighteen years, who shall, after the passage of this law, serve seven years successively, in a uniform volunteer company, shall after that time, be exempted from militia duty, except during war or insurrection.

Serving 7 years as a V. exempt from further M. duty.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint and commission one third lieutenant, and one ensign, in addition to the officers already provided for by law, in every company of uniform volunteers that may be formed in this state.

3d lieutenant and ensign additional.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That any uniform volunteer company now formed, or that may hereafter be formed in this state, shall have the right and privilege to attach itself to any regiment it may desire, whose regimental district is in whole or in part within the county in which such company may be formed, provided application to that effect be made in writing to the adjutant-general of the state, and signed by not less than a majority of the members of such company.

May attach to any regiment in the county.

Proviso.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That the adjutant-general, upon receiving an application, such as is prescribed by the third section of this act, shall immediately communicate the fact to the commanding officer of the regiment to which the company applying shall ask to be attached, who shall thereupon enrol said company in his regiment and give notice thereof to the captain of the company.

Proceedings directed.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted,* That every uniform volunteer company, after it shall have been enrolled in a regiment other than that in whose regimental district it may be formed, and notice thereof shall have been given to the captain thereof, shall be subject in all respects to the exclusive orders of the commanding officer of the regiment in which it shall have been so enrolled, in the same manner as if formed within his regimental district.

Subject to the order of commander of regiment.

SEC. 6. *And be it enacted,* That a majority of the members of every uniform volunteer company now formed, or that may hereafter be formed in this state, shall have full power and authority to make all regulations and by-laws for their rule and government, and shall have power to alter and change the same at pleasure, and may impose fines and prescribe the mode of

May make rules and by-laws.