

WOLVES.

AN ACT to encourage the destruction of Wolves in Baltimore County.
1797, ch. 6.

WHEREAS, it is represented to this general assembly, that wolves are very numerous and mischievous in the county aforesaid, and that they destroy a great number of sheep; therefore,

SEC. 2. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That when and as often as any credible free person or persons shall bring before any justice of the peace for Baltimore county, the head or heads of any wolf or wolves, and make oath, or affirmation if a quaker, menonist or tunker, that the wolf or wolves of which he or they produce the head or heads, were actually caught and killed within the limits of Baltimore county within six days next before the producing the same to such justice, that then such justice shall and he is hereby authorized and directed to give such person or persons producing the same a certificate for such head or heads produced and proved as aforesaid, and in such certificate to mention the oath or affirmation taken, and therein distinguished how many of the heads are of old or young wolves; and every justice who shall have any wolves' head or heads brought before him by any person or persons as aforesaid, shall be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to judge of the age of the said wolf or wolves of which the said head or heads was brought before him, and if such justice shall believe the age of such wolf or wolves to exceed six months, that then he shall distinguish it in his certificate by the words old wolf or wolves, but if he shall believe the said wolf or wolves to be under the age of six months, that he shall distinguish the same in his certificate by the words young wolf or wolves; and that every justice before whom any wolf's head is brought, and by whom a certificate shall be given as aforesaid, is hereby authorized and directed immediately to cause the ears to be cut off, and the tongue to be taken out of and from the head or heads of such wolf or wolves, to prevent such head or heads from being a second time carried before a justice in order to obtain a certificate.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That every person or persons who shall produce a certificate as aforesaid to the justices of Baltimore county at the levy court, shall, for every old wolf's head, be allowed forty dollars, and for every young wolf's head be allowed ten dollars, to be by the said justices assessed and levied in the county levy, together with the sheriff's commission for collecting the same, and to be paid by the sheriff to such person or persons as shall be entitled to the same as aforesaid, any thing in any other law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Preamble.

Justice to give a certificate, &c.

Persons to be allowed, &c.