

CHAPTER 22.

AN ACT to regulate public Ferries.

Supplements April, 1782, ch. 31, November, 1788, ch. 33, 1791, ch. 65; 1815, ch. 72.

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the justices of the several county courts be authorized and required, at their respective March courts, during the continuance of this act, to grant their license to any inhabitant of their county to keep a public ferry, at any place within their county now used as such, if the said justices shall think that a public ferry ought there to be kept and established, and from such place to any other county, or from this to any other state; and every license shall be renewed at every March court during the continuance of this act; and the said justices may, at any other court than March court, grant license to any person not before licensed, to continue until the next March court thereafter; and if any person, after the first day of April next, shall presume to keep ferry, for hire or reward, without obtaining license agreeable to this act, such person shall forfeit five pounds current money for every offence.

Justices to grant licenses, &c.

By April, 1782, ch. 31, any two justices of the peace may, on application, grant license to a person to keep such ferry till the meeting of the court, taking his recognizance, &c. as directed by this act; and by the same act the court may grant license at the same place where it may have been granted to others, on application, with two sufficient securities.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That the justices of the several county courts shall, at their respective March courts, (or oftener if they think proper,) ascertain in current money the price of ferriage for passengers and horses, and the several kinds of carriages (not allowing any thing for the baggage of passengers,) at every ferry by them licensed; and the said justices shall direct how many and what kind of boats shall be kept, and what number of able bodied and skilful hands shall be employed in the boats at every ferry by them licensed, and the same shall be expressed in the license; and every person keeping a public ferry shall keep, constantly set up in the most public part of his house, a copy of his license, and the prices allowed him for ferriage, under the penalty of five pounds current money for every day such copy shall not be set up as required by this act; and if any licensed ferry-keeper shall ask or receive, directly or indirectly, more than the price allowed for ferriage, he shall, for every demand or receipt, forfeit twenty shillings current money; and every person, on obtaining license, shall enter into recognizance, in the sum of fifty pounds current money, with two sufficient sureties, conditioned, that he will faithfully and diligently keep the ferry, for which he shall obtain license, with such boats and hands as the justices granting the license shall

To ascertain the price of ferriage, &c.