

An ACT to establish pilots, and to regulate their fees.

Passed December 16.
Preamble.

WHEREAS it is necessary for the safety and preservation of vessels bound from this state to sea, or coming into Chesapeake bay and bound up any river of this state, and to some port thereof, that able and experienced pilots should be established to conduct and pilot such vessels, for reasonable fees, to their several moorings, and that ignorant and unskilful persons should be prevented from undertaking such pilotage :

A board of examiners appointed, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Septimus Noel, Isaac Vanbibber, Robert Henderson, Thomas Johnson, Jeremiah Yellott, James Clark and Thomas Elliott, or any four or more of them, be and hereby are appointed a board to examine any person who shall desire to be admitted a pilot (he first producing a certificate from the court of the county where he resides of his honesty and good behaviour, and paying to the said board the sum of thirty shillings current money, and to the register of the board five shillings), and if upon public examination the person shall appear to the board of sufficient ability, skill and experience, they shall grant him one of three kinds of warrants of appointment and licence, according to the qualification of such person, thereby authorising such person, for one year from the date of such warrant, either to pilot vessels of any draught of water, or vessels of not exceeding twelve feet draught, or vessels of not exceeding nine feet draught; and every person receiving a warrant of appointment and licence agreeably to this act, shall thereafter be reputed a lawful pilot; but no person shall be entitled to receive a warrant as aforesaid as a first rate pilot, unless he hath employed himself for at least three years in the business of piloting vessels of any draught, or unless he hath served at least four years as an apprentice to the business of piloting; and every pilot shall renew his warrant of licence every year in the month of February; and every first rate pilot shall pay fifteen shillings, and every second rate pilot ten shillings, and every third rate pilot five shillings, to the register of the board for every renewal, and the board may renew any licence or not, as they may think proper.

Who shall take an oath.

III. *And be it enacted,* That every member of the said board, before he proceeds to examine any person applying for a warrant as a pilot under this act, shall take the following oath, or affirmation, (to be administered by any justice of the peace) to wit:—" I, A. B. do swear (or solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm), that I will impartially examine and inquire into the capacity, skill and experience, of C. D. in the art of piloting in Chesapeake bay and the rivers thereof, and will admit him as I find him qualified, or reject him if I find him unqualified, without favour, affection or reward."

And make a common seal, &c.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That the said board may make a common seal, and alter and renew the same at their pleasure, and may appoint a register, who shall enter in a book, to be provided for that purpose, all applications to, and all other proceedings of, the said board, and the register shall countersign all warrants for pilots granted by the board; and every such warrant shall be under the seal of the said board.

No person to act as pilot unless he keep a boat twenty six feet keel, &c.

V. *And be it enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any person to act as a pilot, notwithstanding his having obtained a warrant as aforesaid, unless he or the company to which he belongs shall keep one sufficient boat of twenty-six feet keel straight rabbet, at the least, and decked and well found, under the penalty of fifty pounds current money for every vessel such person shall undertake to conduct or pilot; and the name of every boat, and the number of her warrant and the port she belongs to, shall be put on her stern, and on her mainsail and foresail, in large letters.

Penalty on persons acting without licence, &c.

VI. *And be it enacted,* That if any person, not having a warrant as a pilot agreeably to this act, shall presume to take upon himself to conduct or pilot any vessel bound from any port in this state to sea, or coming from sea and bound up any river of this state, and to any port thereof, every such person shall forfeit fifty