

C H A P. LI. of Anne-Arundel county forty-five pounds current money; to the sheriff of Queen-Anne's county, who is hereby also obliged to convey all such public letters and packets as are directed to any person or persons in the city of Annapolis, to the said city, thirty pounds like money; to the sheriff of Talbot county eleven pounds five shillings like money; to the sheriff of Kent eleven pounds five shillings like money; to the sheriff of Dorchester eleven pounds five shillings like money; to the sheriff of Somerset nine pounds seven shillings and six-pence like money; to the sheriff of Worcester five pounds twelve shillings and six-pence like money; to the sheriff of Caroline five pounds twelve shillings and six-pence like money; to the sheriff of Cæcil five pounds twelve shillings and six-pence like money; to the sheriff of Harford five pounds twelve shillings and six-pence like money; to the sheriff of Baltimore fifteen pounds like money; to the sheriff of Washington nine pounds seven shillings and six-pence like money; to the sheriff of Frederick eleven pounds five shillings like money; to the sheriff of Montgomery five pounds twelve shillings and six-pence like money; to the sheriff of Prince-George's eleven pounds five shillings like money; to the sheriff of Charles nine pounds seven shillings and six-pence like money; to the sheriff of Calvert five pounds twelve shillings and six-pence like money; to the sheriff of Allegany five pounds twelve shillings and six-pence like money; which said several and respective sums of money shall be paid out of the public treasury of this state; in consideration whereof, the sheriffs of the said several and respective counties shall defray all such charges as shall accrue by reason of conveying all such letters or packets.

What are deemed public letters, &c.

X. And be it enacted, That the following, and no other, shall be deemed public letters and packets; that is to say, all packets containing the laws passed at any session of assembly, the votes and proceedings of the senate and house of delegates, endorsed for public service, and signed by the clerk of the council; all letters sent by the governor for the time being, and endorsed for public service, and signed by the clerk of the council; all letters sent by the president of the senate, and endorsed by the clerk of the senate for public service, and signed by him; all letters sent by the speaker of the house of delegates, and endorsed for public service, and signed by him; and all joint letters sent by the president and speaker, endorsed for the public service, and signed by them; all certificates of assessments, and books of proceedings of the commissioners of the tax, and endorsed by the clerks of the several counties on public service, and signed by them; all letters and packets sent by any judge of the general court, and endorsed on public service, and signed by him.

Penalty on persons opening letters, &c.

XI. And, whereas the pernicious custom of opening letters, is loudly complained of, **Be it enacted,** That if any person or persons hereafter shall wilfully break the seal of any letter or package belonging to the public, or directed to private persons, and the same can be proved against him or them by one credible witness, such person or persons so offending, shall, on conviction thereof, pay the sum of one hundred pounds, to be recovered and applied as aforesaid.

And on sheriffs for neglect, &c.

XII. And be it enacted, That every sheriff, to whom such public letters or packets shall be delivered for any person or persons residing in the adjoining counties as aforesaid, shall, within the space of five days after the receipt thereof, deliver, or cause to be delivered, the same to the sheriff of the proper county, according to the directions herein before contained, or in default thereof, every such sheriff shall suffer the penalties herein before prescribed for every refusal or neglect.

In case of sickness, deputy may receive, &c.

XIII. And be it enacted, That if any sheriff shall be actually unable to perform his duties, by sickness or absence from the county at the time when any such public letters or packets shall be ready to be delivered, it shall then be lawful for his deputy sheriff, and he is hereby required and enjoined, to receive such public letters or packets, and to execute and perform the several duties concerning the same which are herein before required of his principal; and if any deputy sheriff, whose principal shall be unable to execute his office for the reasons aforesaid,