

CHAPTER 376.

AN ACT to prevent the concealment, defacement or erasure of the names of owners from peach or other fruit baskets, boxes or crates.

WHEREAS, the practice of concealing, defacing and erasing the names of owners from peach and other fruit baskets, boxes or crates, and substituting other names in their place, has grown to be a great annoyance, and cause of loss of property to their owners; and—

Preamble.

WHEREAS, such practices should justly subject their perpetrators to severe punishment; therefore—

Preamble.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the concealment, defacement or erasure of the owner's name, by any mode whatever, without his consent, from any peach or other fruit basket, box or crate, shall be deemed a misdemeanor, and on conviction before a justice of the peace in the county or the City of Baltimore, where the offence was committed, the party offending shall be required to make restitution to the owner of the basket, box or crate, in a sum equal to ten times its original cost, and shall be fined not less than ten nor more than thirty dollars for every concealment, defacement or erasure of the name of the owner from every peach or other fruit basket, box or crate; one-half of said fine to be paid to the informer, and the other half to the County Commissioners, or to the Commissioners of the Appeal Tax Court of the City of Baltimore, to be applied to the ordinary expenses of the county or city, as the case may be.

Concealment, defacement or erasure

Penalty for

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That any party who shall wilfully destroy any peach or other fruit basket, box or crate, either by splitting it up or burning it, or any part of it, shall, on conviction thereof before a justice of the peace of the county or the City of Baltimore, wherever the offence was committed, be subject to all the penalties imposed in the immediately preceding section.

Wilfully destroy

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That this act shall take effect from the day of its passage.

In force.

Approved April 11th, 1874.