

**Chapter 407.**

AN ACT for the prevention of fraud in canned goods, and for the protection of consumers thereof.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland,* That any person, firm or corporation, now engaged or who may hereafter engage in the business of canned fruits, vegetables and other products, and who shall can or preserve in cans by hermetically sealing any description of fruits or vegetables that have been previously evaporated or dried by the application of heat, and known under the general name of dried fruits and vegetables, shall stamp, or caused to be stamped in the cap covering the mouth of the can into which the said dried fruits or vegetables are to be put up or canned, the following words "Soaked goods," as also the bona fide name of the person, firm or corporation canning the said dried fruits or vegetables, and the said words to be stamped in the cap of the can shall be of letters not less than three-sixteenths of one inch in height, and one-sixteenth of an inch in breadth.

Stamp cap of can.

Soaked goods.

SEC. 2. Any person, firm or corporation, who shall neglect to comply with the provisions of section one of this act, and every person or persons who shall render illegible, conceal or hide in any manner the words to be stamped in the cap of the can, as mentioned in section one of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall for every such offense forfeit and pay a fine of not less than five hundred dollars, to be recovered by indictment in any court of this state having competent jurisdiction for the trial of misdemeanors; and one-half of said fine shall be paid to the informer, and the other half into the treasury of the state.

Penalty.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall take effect on the first day of July, eighteen hundred and eighty-four.

When effective.

Approved April 8, 1884.