

C H A P.
XXVI.

rant 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, unless he hath served at least four years as an apprentice to the business of piloting; (a) 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, (b) and the board may renew any licence or not, as they may think proper.

(a) By 1790, ch. 27, every person applying for a branch, shall prove that he has served four years as an apprentice in the state to learn the art of piloting in Chesapeake bay, or that he procured a branch before that time under the original act.

(b) By 1790, ch. 27, these sums are to be applied as follows: Three shillings and nine-pence to the register for the renewal, and the residue to defray the expences of the board.

Who shall take
an oath, &c.

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:) "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, &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 for act-
ing without li-
cence, &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 pounds current money, and such person shall also be liable for all damages occasioned by his undertaking to conduct or pilot any such vessel, by action at common law; provided, that this prohibition shall not extend to prevent any person from assisting any vessel in distress, if such person shall deliver up such vessel to any pilot who shall come on board and offer to conduct or pilot such vessel; and he shall pay such person one half of the fees received by him for the pilotage of such vessel.

Three may be in
partnership, &c.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That not more than three pilots shall be in partnership, under the penalty of one hundred pounds current money each.

Pilots to give
bond, &c.

VIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That every pilot, on receiving a warrant as aforesaid, shall give bond, with good security, (such as the said board of examiners shall approve,) in the penalty of two hundred pounds current money, for the faithful discharge of his duty agreeably to this act.

Board may
make rules, &c.

IX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said board of examiners may make such rules and orders for the government and regulation of pilots appointed and licensed by them as they may think proper; and the said board may, by their order, deprive any of the said pilots of their licence, or suspend them for a limited time, for breaking such rules or orders, or omitting any thing required by the same, or for acting in any manner contrary thereto; and if any of the said pilots so suspended or deprived, during the time of such suspension or deprivation, shall take upon him to pilot or conduct any vessel, such pilot shall forfeit and pay fifty pounds current money.

Vessels obliged
to receive pi-
lots, &c.

X. AND, for the encouragement of pilots to do their duty, BE IT ENACTED, That every master of a merchant vessel drawing nine feet water or upwards, coming from sea, shall be obliged to receive the first pilot who offers below the Horse-shoe to conduct or pilot his vessel, and shall continue the same pilot to his first port of discharge, or shall pay him half pilotage to the first port; and every master of a merchant vessel of the aforesaid draught of water going to sea, shall be obliged to receive a pilot