

An ACT to provide for the appointment of commissioners for the regulation and improvement of Easton, in Talbot county, and to establish and regulate a market at the said town. Lib. JG. No. 1. fol. 243.

Passed 20th of Dec. 1790.

Supplements ch. 23, 1791, ch. 10, 1794, ch. 58.

WHEREAS it has been represented to this general assembly, that the town of Easton, in Talbot county, has considerably increased in houses and inhabitants, and that the improvement and advantage of the said town would be greatly promoted by placing the same under the care and regulation of certain commissioners, to be elected by the citizens thereof, with sufficient powers to forward this salutary end; therefore,

Preamble.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That five (a) judicious and discreet persons, residing in the said town, or within five miles thereof, shall be elected, by ballot, on the third Monday in March, in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-one, at the court-house in the said town, by the free male inhabitants thereof, above the age of one and twenty years, and having resided within the limits of the said town for the space of one year next preceding the election, and having property in possession of the value of thirty dollars; and the five persons who shall appear to have the greatest number of votes at the close of the election shall be declared to be duly elected the commissioners of the said town, and shall have and exercise the several powers and authority delegated to them by this act; and every free male person, above the age of one and twenty years, and having a free-hold estate, or lease-hold property for a term exceeding one and twenty years, within the limits of the said town, shall likewise have a right to vote in the election of the said commissioners, notwithstanding such person may not be resident therein.

Five persons to be elected, &c.

(a) By 1794, ch. 58, four additional commissioners are to be elected, so as to make the number nine, to be arranged in three classes, one of which is to go out and be replaced as by this act is directed.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the commissioners so chosen shall assemble on the first Monday in April next ensuing their election, at the court-house in the said town, and arrange and number themselves into five classes by lot, and the office of the commissioner of the first class shall determine at the expiration of one year after his election, the office of the commissioner of the second class at the expiration of two years, the office of the commissioner of the third class at the expiration of three years, the office of the commissioner of the fourth class at the expiration of four years, and the office of the commissioner of the fifth class at the expiration of five years; and the vacancy thus successively occasioned by the determination of their respective offices shall be supplied by an election of a judicious and discreet person, resident as aforesaid, to be made at the court-house in the said town, by the inhabitants and others, qualified to vote as aforesaid, on the third Monday of March in every year, and the person so elected shall remain in office for the term of five years; and the succession of the said commissioners be so continued, as that one commissioner shall be chosen annually.

Commissioners to assemble, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That any justice of the peace for the county aforesaid shall, in the first instance, be the judge of the said election, and shall return his certificate thereof to the said commissioners on the day first appointed for their meeting, and the same shall be filed and recorded among their proceedings; and at every subsequent election the commissioners of the town, or the major part of them, shall be judges of such election, and the proceedings thereof shall be recorded under their direction; and every commissioner, before he shall proceed to open an election, shall take an oath or affirmation, that he will faithfully and impartially permit every person to vote at such election who shall be qualified to vote for a commissioner of the said town according to the directions of this act, and that he will not suffer any person to vote at such election, who shall not, in his judgment, be qualified to vote as aforesaid.

Justice to be judge, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any vacancy shall happen in the office of one or more of the commissioners by death, resignation, removal or otherwise, it shall be lawful for the remaining commissioners, and they are hereby required, to cause an election to be made at the court-house in the said town, by the inhabitants thereof and others, qualified to vote as aforesaid, of one or more judicious and discreet persons, resident as aforesaid, to supply every such vacancy, during the remainder of the term; and the time of holding such intervening election shall be previously notified for the space of ten days preceding the election.

How vacancies are to be filled.

VI. AND