

An ACT to appoint a health officer for the port of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county. Lib. JG. No. 2. fol. 70.

Passed 28th of Dec. 1793.

WHEREAS, to prevent the ingress of the plague, or other malignant contagious diseases, is an object of great importance to the welfare and commerce of the citizens of the state; till, therefore, proper arrangements and establishments shall be made by congress in the premises,

Preamble.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the governor, with the advice of the council, shall and he is hereby authorized to appoint one or more persons; being able and skillful physicians, whose duty it shall be to visit and examine all foreign vessels, and other vessels coming from suspected places, and where it shall appear necessary, to oblige the same to perform quarantine, not less than ten days nor exceeding twenty; and in all such cases the visiting physician shall give a certificate to the captain or master of the vessel, signed with his name, expressing the number of days the said vessel is to ride quarantine; and at or before the end of each quarantine, the physician is hereby enjoined to make a second visit to the said vessel, and should it appear to him that a farther quarantine is necessary, he is hereby authorized to enjoin the same for any number of days not exceeding ten.

Governor to appoint, &c.

III. BE IT ENACTED, That if the master, or other person having charge of any vessel bound to the port of Baltimore, having on board altogether, when the said vessel departed from port, above thirty persons on board, disordered with any contagious disease, or coming from any sickly port or place, without a clean bill of health, shall bring his vessel, or suffer or permit the same to be brought, nearer to the port of Baltimore than Hawkins's Point, or shall land, or bring on shore, or cause or suffer to be landed or brought on shore, any of such infected persons, or any part or parcel of their goods or effects, or any other goods, until he has obtained a licence or permit so to do from the physician, or his assistant aforesaid, such master, or other person, having charge of such vessel, shall forfeit and pay, for every such offence, the sum of one thousand dollars.

Masters having passengers disordered not to land, &c.

IV. BE IT ENACTED, That if any master, or other person having charge of any vessel, at the time of inquiry by the aforesaid physician or his assistant, shall have on board any person infected as aforesaid, and shall knowingly conceal the same, or shall not make a just and true discovery to the physician, or his deputy, of the sickly and disordered state and condition of all and every person on board, from the time the said vessel departed from the port or place from whence she last sailed, to the time of the said inquiry, and of all other particulars necessary for the said physician, or his deputy, to know, respecting the premises, such master, or other persons having charge of such vessel, shall forfeit and pay, for every such offence, the sum of three hundred dollars.

Penalty for concealing, &c.

V. BE IT ENACTED, That if any pilot shall conduct any vessel above Hawkins's Point, having on board above thirty persons, being passengers or servants, (and it is hereby declared to be the duty of each pilot to make due inquiry thereof,) such pilot shall forfeit and pay one hundred dollars; and if any pilot shall have knowledge that there is on board any vessel that he undertakes to pilot any person disordered with the plague, or any malignant contagious disease, (and it is hereby declared to be his duty to make due inquiry thereof,) and shall pilot such vessel above Hawkins's Point, he shall forfeit one hundred dollars, and such pilot shall be disqualified to act as a pilot for one year; and if any pilot shall have knowledge that there is on board any vessel that he undertakes to pilot any person disordered as aforesaid, (and it is declared to be his duty to make due inquiry thereof,) and shall conceal the same, and not give information thereof to the aforesaid physician, or his deputy, such pilot shall forfeit one hundred dollars, and such pilot shall be disqualified to act as a pilot for one year.

On pilots for conducting, &c.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all penalties imposed by this act shall be recovered by indictment, or action of debt, by any person who shall sue for the same; provided the same be prosecuted or sued within three months after the said offence committed, and on affidavit filed in the clerk's office, and a copy issued with the writ, signifying the real cause of action, and specifying the certainty of the offence being committed, the court may award special bail to be given to said suit, and in default thereof, to commit the person as in other cases where bail is ordered by the court.

How penalties are to be recovered, &c.

VII. BE IT ENACTED, That a temporary hospital may be erected in such place as the governor, with the advice of the council, may direct, for the reception of such sick person or persons as the said physician may at any time think proper to remove on shore for their better accommodation or cure,

A temporary hospital to be erected, &c.