

deeds, so executed and acknowledged, shall be as good and effectual in law as if the said deed or deeds had been executed by any three or more of the trustees in the act aforesaid mentioned, any thing in the law to which this is a further supplement, and the supplement thereto, to the contrary notwithstanding.

C H A P. LXXXVI.

C H A P. LXXXVII.

An ACT for the direction of sheriffs and coroners in the return of jurors, and for the better regulation of juries. Lib. JG. No. 2. fol. 713.

Passed 20th of Jan. 1798.

A Supplement 1798, ch. 94.

WHEREAS the integrity, experience and intelligence of jurors, is indispensably necessary for the due administration of justice: And whereas the sheriffs frequently return jurors very inadequate to the discharge of the important duties assigned to them;

Preamble.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland; That all sheriffs and coroners within this state already commissioned, shall, on or before the first Monday in March next, take the following oath, or affirmation, (as the case may be,) before some judge or justice of the court of the county for which they may have been respectively commissioned, to wit: "I, A. B. do swear, or affirm, (as the case may be,) that in summoning jurors to be returned to any of the courts of this state, and that in executing every writ or precept which shall come to my hands for the return of jurors, I will use my utmost diligence to summon and return, as jurors, sober and judicious persons, of good reputation, and qualified by the laws of this state to serve as jurors, and to prevent any man being summoned or returned by me, or by any officer under me, who in my judgment will be influenced in determining any of the matters which shall come before him as a juror by hatred, malice or ill will, fear, favour or affection, or by any partiality whatever; and that I will not summon or return as a juror any person, who, in my opinion or to my knowledge, may be solicitous to be returned upon the pannel of jurors;" and that they respectively return a certificate of such oath, or affirmation, to the clerk of the court of the county for which such person is commissioned as sheriff, or coroner, within twenty days thereafter, there to be recorded by said clerk, whose duty it is hereby declared to be to record the same amongst the proceedings of the preceding county court; and that in case any sheriff or coroner shall neglect to take such oath, or affirmation, or return a certificate thereof as aforesaid, the person so neglecting shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars, to be recovered by indictment before the district court of the county for which such person is commissioned, and applied to the use of said county.

Sheriffs, &c. to take an oath, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That no person shall be summoned as a juror by any sheriff or coroner of this state to two general or county courts successively.

No person to be summoned, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That every sheriff and coroner hereafter commissioned within this state shall, before he be allowed to proceed on the execution of his office, besides the usual oaths or affirmations as required by the constitution and laws of this state, take the oath, or affirmation, (as the case may be,) above prescribed, before some judge or justice of the court of the county for which such person may be commissioned, and return a certificate of such oath, or affirmation, to the clerk of the court of the county for which such person may be commissioned, there to be recorded as aforesaid.

Oaths to be taken, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED; That the different sheriffs or coroners of this state, shall not, after the end of this general assembly, summon as a juror in any case, or return upon a pannel as a juror, any person who may not have arrived to the age of twenty-five years, and who doth not possess the other qualifications required by the constitution and laws of this state.

Who shall not be summoned.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That after the end of this session of assembly, no justice of the peace shall be exempt or privileged from being summoned and returned upon the pannel of jurors to the county court, or general court of this state, any former law to the contrary notwithstanding.

No justice exempt, &c.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That after the passage of this act, the sheriffs of the several counties of this state shall not permit their deputies, or any of them, to summon any juror or jurors whom they have not directed them to summon.

Deputies not to summon.

VIII. AND