

C H A P.
LXXXI.
Overseers ex-
empt, &c.

XXI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That each and every overseer to be appointed by virtue of this act shall, if they accept of their said appointment, be exempted from serving on juries to the general court for and during the time they shall respectively serve as overseer.

Several acts re-
pealed.

XXII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That from and after the first day of July next, that the act of assembly passed at October session, one thousand seven hundred and four, entitled, An act for the marking of highways, and making the heads of rivers, creeks, branches and swamps, passable for horse and foot, and the several supplementary acts thereto, the act passed at September session, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-three, entitled, An act directing the manner of recovery of fines for not appearing at the clearing of the highways, the act of assembly passed at October session, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three, entitled, An act for repairing public roads in this province, and the supplement thereto, the act passed at November session, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, entitled, An act relating to public roads in this state, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned, and the supplements thereto, so far as they relate to Kent county, be and the same are hereby repealed.

C H A P. LXXXII.

Passed 3d of
Jan. 1800.

An ACT for appointing a wreck-master in Worcester county. Lib.

JG. No. 3. fol. 346.

Preamble.

WHEREAS from the exposure of the south-east bounds of Worcester county to the Atlantic ocean, many vessels have been and may hereafter be stranded on the sea-coast in the county aforesaid, and the goods, or other property, belonging to such vessel or vessels may be embezzled and stolen, to the great injury of the owners or insurers, and it would be highly expedient to appoint a wreck-master in said county; therefore,

A wreck-mas-
ter to be ap-
pointed, &c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall be lawful for the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the council, and he is hereby required, to nominate and appoint one discreet and sensible person, residing on or near the bay or sea shores of Worcester county, to act in the office of a wreck-master, whose business and duty it shall be, on the earliest intelligence, or on application to him made by or on behalf of any owner or commander of a ship or other vessel being in danger of being stranded, or being stranded, to command any constable or constables, to be appointed by him for that purpose, nearest the coast where such ship or vessel shall be in danger, to summon as many men as shall be thought necessary to the assistance of such ship or vessel; and if there shall be any ship or vessel belonging to any citizen of this state riding near the place, the wreck-master shall have power to demand of the commanding officer of such ship or vessel assistance by their boats, and such hands as they can conveniently spare; and if any commanding officer shall neglect to give such assistance, he shall forfeit one hundred pounds, to be recovered by the officer or owner of the ship in distress, with costs, in any court of record within this state; and the wreck-master, and the commanding officer of any ship or vessel, and all others who shall assist in preserving any ship or other vessel in distress, or their cargoes, shall, within forty days, be paid a reasonable reward by the commander or owner of the ship or other vessel in distress, or by the merchant whose vessel or goods shall be saved, and in default thereof the vessel or goods shall remain in the custody of the wreck-master until all charges be paid, or security given for that purpose, to the satisfaction of the parties; and in case the parties shall disagree, touching the monies deserved by the persons employed, it shall be lawful for the commander of such vessel saved, or the owner, supercargo or factor, of the goods or merchandise saved, to call on either of the associate justices of the said county, giving the parties interested at least five days notice of the time and place, for determining the quantum of salvage or compensation to be paid, who is hereby authorized to determine the same in a summary way, and whose judgment and determination shall be conclusive; and if the amount of such salvage so to be adjudged be not paid within thirty days thereafter, the wreck-master is hereby authorized to sell any of the goods, wares, merchandise, or articles saved, to the amount of the judgment, so determined by the associate justice, from whose judgment or decision an appeal shall lie to the chief justice of the district, by any person or persons who shall or may consider him or themselves aggrieved by such determination of the associate justice, whose duty it shall be to determine the same within thirty days after such appeal, and if no appeal shall be made within ten days after such determination and decision of the associate justice aforesaid, such determination and decision shall be final and conclusive; and if no person shall claim the goods saved, the wreck-master shall take possession thereof, and cause a true description of the marks, numbers and kinds of such goods, to be advertised four weeks in the Easton, Baltimore and Philadelphia news-papers; and if no person shall claim the same within three months, public sale shall be made thereof by the said wreck-master, (but if perishable, the goods shall