

1777.

L A W S of the S T A T E of

C H A P. I, II.

Justices to apportion the public Levy as usual, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That the said Justices, or any three or more of them, shall, and they are hereby authorized and required to call on the Constables, or other Persons appointed, for a Return of their Lists of Taxables, and when the same Returns are made, the said Justices, or any three or more of them, shall and may apportion the public Levy in the usual Manner, and cause the same to be made known to the Sheriff of said County, who is hereby authorized and required to deliver out Tickets, and collect and receive the several Sums so apportioned from the Inhabitants of said County, and if need be execute for the same, as by former Laws is directed, retaining to himself the Commission heretofore allowed, any Lapse of Time for Delivery of Tickets or any other Matter or Thing to the Contrary notwithstanding.

and to lay it in any other County where it has not been levied.

V. And be it enacted, That if the public Levy for any County hath not been laid for the last Year, that the Justices for such County, now or hereafter to be appointed, or any three or more of them, shall meet as soon as conveniently may be at their respective Court-houses, and levy the same in the same Manner as they might have done by Law at their last November Court.

C H A P. II.

An ACT to prevent Desertion.

Preamble.

WHEREAS several Soldiers and Mariners, duly enlisted in the Service of this State, or the United States, or some of them, do afterwards desert and illegally absent themselves from the Service:

Constables, &c. may apprehend Persons suspected of being Deserters, &c.

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Constable, Keeper of any public Ferry, Inn-keeper, or any other Person within this State, to apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, any Person suspected of being a Deserter, and to cause such Person to be brought before any Justice of the Peace, living in or near the Place where such Person shall be taken; who shall examine such suspected Person, and if, by his Confession, or the Testimony of one or more credible Witnesses or Witnessess, upon Oath or Affirmation, or by the Knowledge of such Justice, it shall appear that such suspected Person is an enlisted Soldier or Mariner, in the Service of the United States, or any of them, and ought to be with the Company, Troop, Crew, or Vessel, to which he belongs, such Justice shall forthwith cause him to be conveyed to the nearest commissioned Officer of the Land or Sea Service, as the Case may be, or to the public Gaol of the County or Place where such Deserter shall be apprehended; and such Justice shall transmit an Account thereof to the Secretary of War of the United States for the Time being, and to the commanding Officer of such Deserter.

III. And, the better to encourage the apprehending and securing such Deserter,

Justices to give a Certificate to Persons,

IV. Be it enacted, That such Justice shall give to the Person who shall apprehend and bring such Deserter a Certificate, expressing the Regiment,