

An A C T for the speedy recovery of public debts.

**W**HEREAS many large sums of money have been issued out of the public treasury of the United States, and State of Maryland, to divers persons who have not rendered any accounts for the same, and congress having requested that a law might pass in each respective state for the speedy recovery of debts due to the United States,

Preamble.

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the auditor-general, or any person or persons authorized by congress, may cause process to issue in the general or any county court of this state, for any debt or sum of money now due and owing, or which shall hereafter become due to the United States, against any person or persons whatever, inhabiting, residing, or being found within this state, or against any such person or persons who have received, or hereafter shall receive money from the treasury of the United States, or by order of congress, and have not rendered, or shall not render, an account for the same, and a declaration or short note, expressing the cause of action, being filed with the clerk of the court before issuing the writ, and a copy of such declaration or short note being served on the defendant or defendants, or left at his or their last place of abode twenty days before the return of such writ in the general court, and eight days before the return thereof in the county court, it shall and may be lawful for the justices of said courts respectively, and they are hereby authorized and required, to cause such defendant or defendants to plead to issue, and shall proceed to trial or judgment the first court, and shall not allow any imparlance, unless where evidence is wanted, without which the parties, or either of them, cannot safely go to trial, which fact, as also a reasonable endeavour to obtain such evidence, shall be made appear to the satisfaction of the court, by affidavit of the party, or the testimony of some indifferent witness; and where the writ and short note, or writ and declaration, are not served in time, it shall and may be lawful for the justices of the general court or county courts to allow one imparlance, and no more, unless evidence be wanted as above specified,

Auditor-general, &c. may cause process to issue in the general or any county court, for debts due to the United States, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That the governor and the council, or a committee of the general assembly, or any person authorized by the governor and council or such committee, may cause like process to issue in the general or county courts of this state, against any person or persons whatsoever, inhabiting or residing, or being found therein, who may or shall be indebted to this state by bond or otherwise, or have received or shall receive money from the treasury thereof, for which no account hath been or shall be rendered, and a declaration or short note, expressing the cause of action, being filed with the clerk of the court before issuing the writ, and a copy of such declaration or short note being served on the defendant or defendants, or left at his or their last place of abode twenty days before the return of such writ in the general court, and eight days before the return thereof in the county court, it shall and may be lawful for the justices of said courts respectively, and they are hereby authorized and required to cause such defendant or defendants to plead to issue, and shall proceed to trial or judgment the first

Governor and council, &c. may cause like process to issue against persons indebted to this state, &c.