

past been subjected to very considerable inconvenience and loss, from the frequent meetings of negroes and other disorderly persons in the night in the said town, and of late by repeated robberies and house-breakings, committed secretly in the night time by the said negroes and other disorderly persons in the said town of Cambridge, and the neighbourhood thereof, and that they apprehend that the appointment of an active and vigilant person to serve as constable for the said town would in some measure prevent the commission of such outrages in future:

II. *Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That it shall and may be lawful for the justices of Dorchester county court, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, at their next county court, and annually at every November court thereafter, to appoint an active and vigilant person, residing in the said town of Cambridge, or within two miles thereof, to serve as constable for the said town, which said person, when appointed as aforesaid, and qualified as all other constables are by law directed and required to be qualified, shall have all the powers and authority that any other constable within this state hath or legally ought to have.

Justices of Dorchester county court to appoint a constable for the town of Cambridge, &c.

III. *Provided nevertheless, and be it enacted,* That if the justices of Dorchester county court aforesaid shall at any time hereafter make an allowance to the constable appointed in virtue of this act, for any services by him to be performed, such allowance shall be paid by an assessment or tax on the inhabitants of the town of Cambridge only, and not by any assessment, tax or imposition on any other the inhabitants of Dorchester county aforesaid.

Proviso.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That the clerk of Dorchester county aforesaid, after the appointment of the constable for the town of Cambridge as aforesaid, shall signify such appointment under his hand, and deliver the same to the sheriff of the said county, within three days after such appointment, under the penalty of five pounds, to be recovered before a single magistrate as in case of small debts, for the use of the county where recovered; and the said sheriff shall, within three days after such delivery as aforesaid, deliver the same to the constable aforesaid, or leave the same at his usual place of abode, under the penalty of five pounds, to be recovered in manner aforesaid, and for the use aforesaid.

Clerk of Dorchester county to signify such appointment to the sheriff, &c.

V. *And be it further enacted,* That every person to be appointed constable in virtue of this act, before he enters upon his office aforesaid, shall take, repeat, and subscribe, the oath of fidelity and support to this state, and such other oath or oaths as other constables are by law directed to take, and shall also repeat and subscribe his belief in the christian religion; and if any person so to be appointed shall refuse to qualify as aforesaid, such person so refusing shall be fined by the justices aforesaid any sum not exceeding ten pounds, in the discretion of such justices, to be recovered and applied as aforesaid.

Constable to take the oath of fidelity, &c.

VI. *And be it further enacted,* That in case of the death, refusal, or removal, of any person to be appointed a constable in virtue of this act, it shall and may be lawful for any two of the justices of Dorchester county aforesaid to appoint any other person, living in the said town of Cambridge or within two miles thereof, to be constable for the said town;

In case of death, &c. another to be appointed, &c.