

he delivers the same letter or packet to the next sheriff, or party to whom directed, the party that receives the same shall likewise, if required, give a receipt for the same; and any high-sheriff or his deputy or deputies (for whom the high-sheriff shall be answerable) or any person to whom any letters or packets may be directed, shall refuse to give such receipt, to be proved by the oath of the person demanding such receipt, shall forfeit and pay five hundred pounds current money, one half thereof to the informer, or him or them that shall sue for the same, the other half to the support of government, to be recovered in any court of record of this state; and any high-sheriff or his deputy (for whom the high-sheriff shall be answerable) after having received any letter or packets, shall wilfully neglect to forward such letters or packets as directed, so that such letter is stopped twenty-four hours longer than it need be, the high-sheriff shall forfeit the sum of one thousand pounds current money for every offence, one half thereof to the informer, or him or them that will sue for the same, the other half for the support of government, to be recovered in any court of record in this state, and such neglect of such sheriff shall be evidenced by the dates of the receipts.

CHAPTER  
IX, X, XI,  
XII.

VII. And, Whereas the pernicious custom of opening letters is loudly complained of:

VIII. Be it therefore enacted, That if any person or persons hereafter, shall wilfully break the seal of any letter or package belonging to the public, or directed to private persons, and the same can be proved against him or them by one credible witness, such person or persons so offending shall, on conviction thereof, pay the sum of five hundred pounds, to be recovered and applied as aforesaid.

Penalty for  
breaking the  
seal of letters,  
&c.

IX. Provided nevertheless, That the governor and council have full power and authority to open any letter or letters, which they may have reason to think contain any thing detrimental to this or any of the United States, any thing contained in this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Proviso.

X. This act to continue and be in force for one year, and to the end of the next session of assembly which shall happen thereafter.

Continuance.

C H A P. X.

An ACT to direct the recording of a deed to John Brice. (*A private act.*)

C H A P. XI.

An ACT for the relief of John Taylor, sheriff of Harford county, and Benjamin Cawood, collector of the assessment in Charles county. (*A private act.*)

C H A P. XII.

An ACT to direct the recording of a deed from Richard Jones and Anne his wife, to Edward Willett, of Prince-George's county. (*A private act.*)