

An A C T to encourage the destroying of wolves.

W H E R E A S it appears to this general assembly, that wolves Preamble.
are very numerous and mischievous in some of the counties
of this state, and that they destroy great numbers of sheep :

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That when Persons pro-
ducing wolves
heads to have
a certificate,
&c.
and as often as any credible free person or persons shall bring before any
justice of the peace, within any of the counties of this state, the head
or heads of any wolf or wolves, and make oath on the holy evangels of
Almighty God (or affirmation, if a quaker, menonist, or dunker) that
the wolf or wolves, of which he, she, or they, produce the head or
heads, were actually caught and killed within the limits of that county
in which he or they pray for an allowance, and within three days next
before the producing the same to such justice, that then such justice
shall, and he is hereby authorized and directed to give such person or
persons, producing a certificate for such head or heads produced and
proved as aforesaid, and in such certificate to mention the oath or af-
firmation taken, and therein distinguish which or how many of the
heads were the heads of the old or young wolves, and every justice
who shall have any wolves head or heads brought before him by any
person or persons as aforesaid, shall be, and he is hereby authorized and
empowered to judge of the age of the said wolf or wolves of which the
said head or heads was brought before him; and if such justice shall
believe the age of such wolf or wolves to exceed three months, that
then he shall distinguish it in his certificate by the words old wolf or
wolves, but if he shall believe the said wolf or wolves to be under the
age of three months, that then he shall distinguish the same in his cer-
tificate by the words young wolf or wolves; and that every justice be-
fore whom any wolf's head is brought, and by whom a certificate shall
be given as aforesaid, is hereby authorized and directed immediately to
cause the ears to be cut off, and the tongue taken out of and from
the head or heads of such wolf or wolves, to prevent such head or
heads from being a second time carried before a justice in order to ob-
tain a certificate.

III. *And be it enacted,* That every person or persons, who shall Allowance on
producing
certificates,
&c.
produce a certificate as aforesaid, to the justice of the county wherein
the said wolf or wolves were killed, at the levy county court, shall,
for every old wolf's head, be allowed thirty-seven pounds ten shillings,
and for every young wolf's head be allowed eleven pounds five shillings,
to be by the said justices assessed and levied in the county levy, toge-
ther with the sheriff's salary for collecting the same, and to be paid by
the sheriff to such person or persons as shall be entitled to the same as
aforesaid.

IV. This act to continue for one year, and to the end of the next Continuance.
session of assembly which shall happen thereafter.