

An ACT to appoint commissioners to preserve confiscated British property. *vid c 45*

Commissioners appointed, &c.

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BE it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That William Paca, Uriah Forrest, and Clement Hollyday, Esquires, or any two of them, shall be and are hereby appointed commissioners for the purpose of preserving all British property, seized and confiscated by the act of the present session, to seize, confiscate, and appropriate, all British property within this state; and that the said commissioners shall be, and are hereby declared to be, in the full and actual seisin and possession of all British property seized and confiscated by the said act, without any office formed, entry, or other act to be done; and the said commissioners shall and may, as soon as may be, appoint proper persons, in all cases that they may think necessary, to enter into and take possession of any part of the said property, and to preserve and keep the same from waste and destruction, or to occupy and employ the same for the benefit of the public, and to inventory the same, or any other of the said property, which the said commissioners may not think proper or necessary to put into the keeping of any person as aforesaid; and the said commissioners shall return to the next general assembly a list or account of all such British property by them discovered, to whom the same belonged, the persons, if any, to whose keeping they committed the same, and the sums to which the same shall be valued in the next valuation of property, and the inventory aforesaid shall also be returned to the general assembly, with the list or account aforesaid; but in case any person shall be in possession of any of the said property, and claim the same, such property shall not be taken out of his possession, if he gives good and sufficient security in double the value thereof, that the same, if moveable, shall be produced when called for by the commissioners not any way damaged or injured, or if real, that no waste or destruction shall be committed thereon, but that the same shall be kept and preserved in as good order and repair as the same may then be in, until the title thereto shall be determined; and in case either of the said commissioners should refuse to act, or die, in the recess of the assembly, the governor and the council are to appoint another in his stead, to act as commissioner till the next meeting of the general assembly.

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To take an oath, &c.

II. And be it enacted, That before any commissioner shall act as such, he shall take the following oath, to wit: "I, A. B. do swear, that as commissioner under the act for appointing commissioners to preserve confiscated British property, I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, execute the trust reposed in me, and the duties of my office, diligently, impartially, and faithfully. So help me God."

May appoint a clerk, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That the said commissioners shall be empowered to appoint a clerk, who shall make true entries of their proceedings, and before he acts as clerk shall take an oath, diligently and truly to execute his said office; and each of the said commissioners shall be allowed fifty shillings, in Spanish dollars at seven shillings and six-pence each, or in bills of credit to the value thereof, for each day he shall attend in the execution of his office, besides the like sum for each