

old or new interlude, tragedy, comedy, opera, play, farce, or other entertainment of the stage, or any act, scene, addition, insertion or amendment, or any new prologue or epilogue, before a copy thereof shall be sent as aforesaid, every person so offending shall, for every such offence, forfeit the sum of thirty pounds, and the licence for acting shall be void.

C H A P.
XXIV, XXV.

V. And be it enacted, That upon oath, or information lodged before a magistrate, the informant having committed to writing the immodest or indecent words sworn to have been spoken by any actor or actresses, and having likewise described in writing any indecent or immodest gestures used by any actor or actresses in any interlude, tragedy, comedy, opera, play, farce, or other entertainment of the stage, the magistrate shall transmit the information given as aforesaid to the governor, who, if he shall judge the words committed to writing, or gestures described, to be immodest or indecent, he shall direct the attorney-general to prosecute the person or persons so offending, and upon conviction thereof, the person or persons so offending shall be fined a sum not exceeding fifteen pounds.

Fine on actors
using immodest words,
&c.

VI. And be it enacted, That no person shall be liable to be prosecuted for any offence against this act, unless such prosecution shall be commenced within the space of six calendar months after the offence committed.

Prosecutions
to be commenced
within 6 months,
&c.

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

Continuance.

C H A P. XXV.

An A C T respecting the tonnage of vessels.

WHEREAS the tonnage of ships or vessels registered in this state are calculated by carpenters measure, by which means the citizens of this state pay a greater tonnage than the citizens of any other state, whose ships or vessels of the same dimensions, registered elsewhere, are estimated differently, or at a much lower tonnage, and consequently the citizens of this state pay heavier duties at foreign ports: For relief therefore, and to place the citizens of this state as nearly as may be upon an equality with the citizens of other states, in foreign ports, as well as in the ports of the United States,

Preamble.

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That all ships or vessels to be registered shall have their tonnage ascertained in the manner heretofore directed, except in the number to divide by, which shall be two hundred instead of ninety-five; and all ships or vessels under register, the property of a citizen of this state, or one third of which is held by any citizen belonging to this state, may and are hereby authorized to take out new registers, dividing by two hundred, agreeably to this act.

How tonnage
is to be ascertained,
&c.

III. And be it enacted, That the tonnage on all registers taken out agreeably to this act for and during the present year, be rated at two shillings per ton, and collected accordingly.

Rate of tonnage,
&c.