

C H A P.
LXXXIV.

one half of the property of such vessel actually belongs to some one or more of the citizens of this state, there shall be a deduction from the duties imposed by this act on enumerated articles, one sixth part thereof, and from the two per cent. duty on non-enumerated articles, there shall be a deduction of one eighth part thereof, and if reduced to one per cent. there shall be a deduction of one fourth part thereof; and on exports in any such vessel, navigated and owned as aforesaid, there shall be a deduction of one third part of the duty imposed by this act; and on imports in any vessel built within this state, and entirely owned by citizens thereof, and wholly navigated by a master and mariners, all of whom are citizens of this state, there shall be a deduction from the duties imposed by this act on enumerated articles, of one third part thereof, and from the two per cent. duty, a deduction of one fourth part thereof, and if reduced to one per cent. a deduction of one half part thereof; and on exports in any such vessel, there shall be a deduction of one half part of the duty imposed by this act; and it shall be fully proved, by oath or affirmation of the person requiring the deduction allowed by this act, or by other credible testimony, to the entire satisfaction of the naval officer, that such vessel was built within this state, and is navigated and owned as required by this act, or he shall not make any deduction, and if any doubt arises, he may refer the party, with the proof, to the governor and the council, whose decision shall be conclusive.

What mariners are deemed citizens, &c.

XVII. And, to ascertain what mariners or seamen shall be deemed citizens of this state within the meaning of this act, Be it enacted, That any mariner or seaman, above fourteen and under fifty years of age, may repair to any naval officer, and there deliver in his name, age, stature, complexion, (natural marks if any) and place of birth, and require the naval officer to register him accordingly, and to give him a certificate thereof under his hand and seal of office, and such certificate shall be sufficient evidence that such mariner is a citizen of this state; and every registered seaman and mariner shall be exempted from all military and militia service, (except only in case of a real invasion of the state) and shall have a preference of being admitted into any hospital that may hereafter be erected in this state; and every registered seaman or mariner may, if he pleases, wear some honorary mark of distinction; provided that this privilege shall not infringe any stipulation in any treaty made with any kingdom or state by the United States in congress assembled; and every naval officer shall enter in a book to be kept for that purpose only, the names of such persons alphabetically, with their age, stature, complexion, (natural marks if any) and place of birth and the time when registered, and annually, in the month of October, transmit a fair copy thereof to the clerk of the house of delegates, to be by him entered in a book to be kept for that purpose.

When 2 per cent duty is to take place, &c.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That after the five per cent. granted to congress shall take place, only one per cent. shall be collected by the naval officers on the non-enumerated articles in virtue of this act.

A public act, &c.

XIX. And be it enacted, That this act shall be esteemed in all courts of law and equity to be a public act, and notice thereof shall be taken as such by all courts and persons accordingly.

Continuance.

XX. This act to continue seven years, and to the end of the next session of the general assembly thereafter.