

An Act for raising Four Pence Sterling per Hogshead on all Tobacco to be Exported, for Purchasing Arms and Ammunition for the Defence of this Province.

WHEREAS his Majesty our most gracious Sovereign is now Engaged in a War with *Spain*, and that a War with *France* may ensue in consequence of the vigorous Measures taken by his Majesty in favour of the common Cause, and lest the Magazine of Arms and Ammunition now in the Province, and the Monies heretofore raised by any former Acts, should prove insufficient for the present Purpose: We his Majesty's faithful Subjects, the Delegates of the Freemen of *Maryland*, in General Assembly convened, to Testify our Zeal for his Majesty's Person and Government, and for putting our selves in the best and speediest Posture of Defence we are able: Humbly pray that it may be Enacted,

And be it Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That there shall be levied, collected, and raised a Duty or Impost of *Four Pence Sterling Money* on every Hogshead of Tobacco, which now is, and hereafter shall be, laden on board any Ship or Vessel, to be Exported out of this Province, and not Cleared at some Naval-Office before the end of this present Session of Assembly, to be collected and received by the respective Naval-Officers, in the same manner as other Duties on all Tobacco now due and payable, are collected and raised; which said Duty, shall from Time to Time, by the Naval-Officers aforesaid, be paid to the Honourable Col. *Edward Sprigg*.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That the same Col. *Edward Sprigg*, shall, with the Money which he shall so receive, by virtue of this Act, send for and purchase for the Use and Defence of this Province, such Arms, Ammunition and other War like Stores, as his Excellency, his Lordship's present Governor, or his Lordship's Governor or Commander in Chief for the Time being, shall direct and appoint.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Naval-Officers aforesaid, shall from time to time, make and render to both Houses of Assembly of this Province, sufficient and clear Accounts of all Monies which they shall receive by virtue of this Act, and that the same Col. *Edward Sprigg*, shall from time to time render to both Houses of Assembly, Accounts of what Monies he shall receive by virtue of this Act, and how the same shall have been disposed of.

And be it further Enacted, That the said several Naval-Officers, for collecting and receiving the Duty aforesaid, and paying the same to the aforesaid Col. *Edward Sprigg*, shall take and be allowed the Salary of *Eight Pounds per Cent.* for such part as they shall collect and receive as Naval-Officers aforesaid; And that the same Col. *Edward Sprigg* shall receive *Five Pounds per Cent.* for laying out and applying such Money Collected as aforesaid, according to the Directions of this Act, and no more.

And be it further Enacted, That if the Governor, or Commander in Chief of this Province for the Time being, shall not Direct any Arms, Ammunition, or other Stores aforesaid, to be purchased with the Monies arising from the Duties aforesaid, before the next Session of Assembly which shall happen after the Expiration of this Act, that then the said Monies,

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