

Artillery in which they may choose their proper Officers, who shall be commissioned as aforesaid, and subject to the same Rules as the Militia

And Whereas it is absolutely necessary in this time of imminent danger, that there should be some power existing which may superintend the execution of the orders and regulations of the Convention, and occasionally from time to time promote the prudent and necessary preparations for defence, and in case of necessity call forth a due proportion, or even the whole of the Force of the Province in an orderly and regular manner, whereby the strength of the whole will be greatly increased in the common defence, and the Rights and Liberties of all better secured.

Resolved, That sixteen persons, Eight of whom residing on the Western and Eight on the Eastern Shore, shall be chosen by Ballot, by this Convention, and be stiled and denominated the Council of Safety of Maryland,

That any nine or more of the said Council of Safety convened, or the Major part of them, direct and regulate the operations of the Minute Men and Militia; and may as aforesaid, grant all Military Commissions, and appoint and Commission Field Officers, and appoint and regulate the rank of all Military Officers; and in the receipt of the Convention, call forth the Minutemen into action in any place or places in this Province, or the neighbouring Colonies; and the Militia into action in any place or places in this Province, at such time and times, in such Proportions and on such occasions, as they may judge necessary, and do all such other matters and things for the securing and strengthening this Province, and for providing for the defence thereof, as they shall deem necessary and expedient, and execute such other powers as may be entrusted to them by the Convention of this Province.

That as at some times, a necessity for taking speedy measures may be so pressing that a delay till the Council of Safety could assemble together, would be highly dangerous, and many things of importance may well and more conveniently be transacted by a Majority of members residing on the respective shores: the members residing on either shore respectively, or the major part of them, or of such of them as shall be in this Province, may not only grant Commissions for Court-Martial, when applied for, and hear, determine and punish high and dangerous offenders according to the Resolutions of this Convention, but may also in case of instant danger, or pressing necessity, call forth the Minutemen or Militia of their respective shore: yet it is recommended, if time will permit, for the whole Council of Safety, or some of them, to meet and consult together, that those of either shore, do not separately call forth the Minutemen or Militia; and that if time will not permit such meeting and Consultation, then as soon after the separate act done or may be, the whole Council of Safety shall be summoned, and the orders and Resolutions of a Majority of any nine, or more of them shall control and govern, it being the intention of this Convention, that a joint Council