

The following B-I-L-L (which did not Pass into a Law last Session) is published, in Purfuance of an Order of the Honourable Lower House of Assembly, for the Perusal of their Constituents.

An Act for regulating the Militia of the Province of Maryland.

I. **W**HEREAS, in this Time of imminent Danger, it is requisite, for the Defence and Security of this Province, that the Militia thereof be duly regulated and well-armed, as well to repell the hostile Attempts of foreign Invaders, as to quell and suppress any intestine Comotions, Rebellions, or Insurrections, which may happen:

II. *BE it therefore 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 every Male Inhabitant of this Province (Papists, the Persons commonly called Neutrals, Servants, and Slaves, excepted), who shall be from the Age of sixteen Years to the Age of sixty Years, and able to bear Arms, at the Expiration of ten Days, after the Publication of this Act, in the County wherein he shall reside, shall enlist with the Captain or next Commanding Officer of the Troop of Horse or Company of Foot, in the District or Place where such Person shall reside, by writing his Name or making his Mark (as he shall be able) in a Roll, to be entituled and kept for that Purpose, within ten Days from and after the Publication of this Act as aforesaid, under the Penalty of Forty Shillings Current Money, and the same Penalty for every thirty Days Neglect or Omission thereafter. And all Captains, within this Province, are hereby directed and commanded to take due Care to enlist accordingly all such Persons as aforesaid; and in Case of Dispute whether any Person ought to enlist in respect of his Age, the same shall be determined by the Officer before whom such Dispute shall happen, by the Oath of the Person whose Age shall be in Question, or the Oath, or Affirmation (if a Quaker) of his Parent, or some other credible Witness; which Oath or Affirmation the said Officer is hereby authorized to administer.*

III. *AND be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Male Person and Persons (except as above excepted), who shall attain his or their Age of sixteen Years, or come into and settle in this Province, after the Expiration of the aforesaid ten Days, from and after the Publication of this Act, and be of the Age aforesaid, shall, within ten Days after his or their attaining their said Age of sixteen Years, or twenty Days after his or their Arrival within this Province, enlist in the Manner aforesaid, under the Penalty of Forty Shillings Current Money, and the same Penalty for every thirty Days Neglect or Omission thereafter, so to enlist as aforesaid.*

IV. *AND be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Colonels or Commanding Officers of all Regiments, Troops, and Companies, shall in ten Days after the Publication of this Act in their respective Counties, and once, at least, in every two Months thereafter, issue their Warrants to their inferior Officers, directing them to make diligent Enquiry in their respective Districts, whether all Persons have enlisted according to the Directions of this Act, and to return the Names of all Defaulters in that Behalf, to the end that they may be punished according to this Act: And the Colonel or Commanding Officer neglecting his Duty herein, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Pounds Current Money for every Neglect. And the inferior Officer charged with the Execution of such Warrant, for every Neglect of his Duty herein, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds Current Money.*

V. *AND be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person and Persons, to be enlisted according to the Directions of this Act, shall take the following Oath, to wit: " I do swear that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to his Majesty King GEORGE the Second, and him I will defend to the utmost of my Power against all Treasons, traitorous Conspiracies, and Attempts whatsoever. And I will do my best Endeavour to disclose and make known to the Governor or Commander in Chief, for the Time being, of the*