

Whereas the people of this state have heretofore been compelled by the lords proprietary of Maryland, or the naval officers acting under their appointment and directions, to pay a duty of twelve-pence sterling per hoghead on all tobacco exported thereout, and the collection of that duty continued for upwards of forty years, without any law to justify the same: And whereas the payment of quit-rent hath ceased throughout the United States since the late happy revolution, and sound policy requires, that the state of Maryland should not be distinguished from all others, and that the quit-rent should cease as an equivalent for the money so unjustly exacted:

*Be it therefore enacted,* That nothing herein contained shall be deemed, construed, or taken, to subject the inhabitants of this state to the payment of quit-rent for the lands they may have in possession, or be justly entitled unto, but that the same shall cease and be for ever hereafter abolished, any law, usage, or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

*And be it enacted,* That no person or persons whatever, comprehended within the above description of a British subject, shall at any time hereafter be prosecuted or punished for treason or felony, or any other crime or offence against the laws of this state, as a subject thereof, but shall in every respect be deemed and taken to be a subject of the king of Great-Britain, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

“ By the house of delegates,  
“ Dec. 3, 1779: Read the first  
“ time and ordered to lie on the  
“ table. By order,

“ J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.  
“ By the house of delegates, Dec.  
“ 14, 1779: Read the second  
“ time and committed for amend-  
“ ments. By order,

“ J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.  
“ By the house of delegates, Dec.  
“ 15, 1779: Read with the a-  
“ mendments and will pass.

“ By order,  
“ J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.”

“ By the senate, Dec. 16, 1779:  
“ Read the first time and ordered  
“ to lie on the table.

“ By order,  
“ H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.  
“ By the senate, Dec. 20, 1779:  
“ Read the second time and will  
“ not pass.

“ By order,  
“ H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.”