

C H A P. VII.

An ACT relating to the public buildings in Harford county.

WHEREAS it appears to this general assembly, by a memorial of John Taylor, sheriff of Harford county, that the commissioners for erecting public buildings in said county have been directed by resolves of conventions to let out the money on interest that hath been assessed for that purpose: And whereas sundry inhabitants of said county have not discharged their quota levied in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-five which ought to have been paid last year, and it appearing unjust to burthen said sheriff with interest for what he hath not received;

Preamble.

II. *Be it therefore enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That the sheriff of Harford county be allowed until the first day of November next to complete the collection of the money assessed for erecting public buildings in said county, without being subject to pay interest on such money as he hath not collected, any law or resolve to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sheriff allowed till Nov. to complete the collection.

C H A P. VIII.

An ACT to establish orphans courts in the several counties of this state.

WHEREAS, by the form of government lately assented to by the representatives of the freemen of this state, it is intended, that the office of commissary-general should be abolished, and that an orphans court, and a register of wills, under the control of said court, should be appointed in every county:

Preamble.

II. *Be it therefore enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That the office of commissary-general in this state be for ever hereafter abolished, and that seven of the justices of the peace in Anne-Arundel, Baltimore, and Prince-George's counties, and five of the justices of the peace in St. Mary's, Kent, Calvert, Charles, Somersset, Dorchester, Cecil, Talbot, Queen-Anne's, Worcester, Frederick, Harford, Caroline, Washington, and Montgomery counties, shall be specially named by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, and be by him commissioned as and for justices of the several orphans courts in this state, any three or more of whom, shall have power to hold a court once in two months, or oftener, as the case shall require, within their several and respective counties, at the usual place of holding county courts, and therein shall proceed according to the laws now in force, or hereafter to be in force, for the administration of justice in testamentary affairs, granting administrations, recovery of legacies, securing filial portions, and distribution of intestate estates; and shall have the same power, authority and jurisdiction, within their several counties, which the commissary-general heretofore by law had and exercised within this state.

The office of commissary-general abolished, and orphans courts erected.

III. *And be it enacted,* That the orphans courts in the several counties shall be held on the second Tuesdays in June, August, October, December, February, and April, yearly, or oftener, if need be, on their own adjournments; and that the justices of such courts, before they proceed to business, shall severally take the oath of allegiance and fidelity to this state, as also the oath of judge or justice, and sign a declaration of his belief in the christian religion.

When to be held, &c.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That the register of wills, appointed in each county under the form of government, shall have all the power, authority and jurisdiction, which the deputy commissaries heretofore by law had and exercised in such county; and moreover shall diligently attend the meeting of the orphans court in his county, and there make full and fair entries of their proceedings; and shall also make a fair record of all wills and other matters heretofore recorded in the office of the commissary-general, and give out copies, under seal, when demanded, of all such records; and shall be entitled to a reward for his services according to the table of fees hereafter to be settled.

Registers to have the same power as deputy commissaries heretofore had, &c.