

An ACT for the better security of the government.

Preamble.

WHEREAS, in every free state, allegiance and protection are reciprocal, and no man is entitled to the benefit of the one, who refuses to yield the other; and as every inhabitant of this state enjoys the protection and benefit of the government and laws thereof, and it is reasonable that every person should give testimony of his attachment and fidelity to this state, and the present government thereof, as now established,

Every free male person to take the oath of fidelity, &c.

II. **Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,** That every free male person within this state, above eighteen years of age, unless a quaker, menonist or dunker, shall, on or before the first day of March next, take, repeat and subscribe, the oath of fidelity and support to this state, contained in the act, entitled, An act to punish certain crimes and misdemeanors, and to prevent the growth of toryism; and every free male quaker, menonist or dunker, within this state, above eighteen years of age, shall, on or before the first day of March next, solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm, in the words of the said oath, and thereto subscribe his name.

Before some magistrate;

III. **And be it enacted,** That the said oath and affirmation shall be taken within the time aforesaid, before some magistrate of the county or city where the person who takes such oath or affirmation resides.

Who is to keep two books, &c.

IV. **And be it enacted,** That every magistrate aforesaid, shall keep two paper books, one for all persons who shall take the oath aforesaid, and the other for all persons who shall take the affirmation aforesaid, prefixing to one of the said books the oath aforesaid, and to the other the affirmation aforesaid. And all persons required by this act to take the said oath, or affirmation, shall, after taking the same, subscribe his name thereto, in such book as contains the oath, if such person takes the said oath, or in such book as contains the affirmation, if such person takes the said affirmation; and if such person cannot write his name, he shall enter his mark, and the magistrate shall thereto set his name.

Magistrates to make out copies of their books, &c.

V. **And,** for the ascertaining such as shall neglect to take the said oath, or affirmation, and that there may be a record evidence of such neglect, **Be it enacted,** That every magistrate aforesaid shall make out fair copies of his said books, with all convenient dispatch, after the aforesaid first day of March, and the same transmit to the governor and council of this state, and shall deliver the original books to his next county court which shall happen after the said first day of March next, there to be recorded.

And to attend one day in every week, &c.

VI. **And be it enacted,** That every magistrate of the county shall, and he is hereby enjoined and required, to attend one day in every week, until the said first day of March next, at the most convenient places in his neighbourhood, with his books aforesaid, for the purpose of administering the oath, or affirmation, aforesaid, and for the purpose of having the same subscribed to, in manner and form aforesaid; and the said justices shall give public notice, by advertisement, of such places and days of meeting as aforesaid.

Constables to make out a list of inhabitants, &c.

VII. **And be it enacted,** That every constable of every hundred shall, before the first day of March next, make out a fair alphabetical list of all the free male inhabitants, residents in his hundred, and not out of the state, or hereafter not exempted from taking the said oath, or affirmation, who shall be of the age of eighteen years, on or before the aforesaid first day of March, and a copy of the said list, with all convenient dispatch, transmit to the governor and council, and the original list shall deliver to the next county court of his county which shall happen after the aforesaid first day of March next, there to be recorded.

Allowance to magistrates, &c.

VIII. **And be it enacted,** That every magistrate shall be allowed in the county levy, the same *per diem* allowance, for every day he shall attend, in pursuance of