

CHAPTER 140.

An act relating to the appointment of Constables in this State, and for other purposes.

Dec. Sess. 1824

Passed Feb. 23, 1825.

Preamble.

Whereas, the boundaries of hundreds throughout this state, by vacating old roads, opening new ones, and other causes are, in a great measure obliterated and forgotten; Therefore,

Constables of election districts instead of hundreds.

Sec. 1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the passage of this act, the justices of the levy courts in the several counties of this state, shall at the time heretofore fixed for the appointment of constables, appoint for the several election districts in their respective counties, instead of hundreds as heretofore, as many constables as they may deem necessary, who shall, before they proceed to act in that capacity, give bond to the state in the manner now prescribed by law:

Powers, &c.

2. *And be it enacted,* That constables appointed under this act, shall have full power and authority to serve and execute civil process, and to do and perform all matters and things appertaining to the duties of their appointment throughout the county in which they shall respectively reside, in the same manner they are now authorised and required to do in their respective hundreds; and that the responsibility of said constables and the securities on their bonds, shall be coextensive with the authority to serve and execute process hereby given to them; *Provided,* that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to compel any constable to serve or execute civil process beyond the limits of the election district for which he shall be appointed.

Proviso.

3. *And be it enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any justice of the peace to put into the hands of any person as constable, any precept, until such person shall produce to him a copy of his bond, given within the year, approved according to law, and authenticated by the certificate and seal of the clerk of the county.

Justices forbid to employ without seeing bonds.

4. *And be it enacted,* That all constables hereafter to be appointed, instead of the oath required by law to be taken, shall take the following; "I, A. B. do swear or affirm, as the case may be, that I will faithfully and honestly serve in the office of constable for election district, in county, and will well and truly, according to my power, skill and knowledge, perform and execute the duties belonging to the office of constable, so long as I shall continue in such office, so help me God."

Constables oath.

5. *And be it enacted,* That the said levy courts shall at their meeting on the first Monday in April next, appoint constables agreeably to the provisions of this act, to serve until the usual time of appointing said officers, as is now prescribed by law, who shall before they proceed to act, in all respects comply with the provisions of this act; any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Appointments in April next.

6. *And be it enacted,* That from and after the passage of this act, the several constables in this state shall be entitled to receive the same fees on the appraisal and sale of goods and chattels distrained for rent, as sheriffs are entitled to receive for similar services; any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Fees for distraint.

7. *And be it enacted,* That all acts or parts of acts of assembly that are inconsistent with or repugnant to the provisions of this act, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Repeal.