

CHAPTER 91.

AN ACT relative to the Inspection of Tobacco.

Sec 1801, ch. 63, ante page 437.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* Brand directed for Maryland tobacco.
That from and after the first day of March next, it shall be the duty of each and every inspector of tobacco at the several tobacco warehouses in this state, to brand (or cause the same to be done,) on every hogshead of tobacco raised, cured and packed in this state, which they or either of them shall inspect, with the word MARYLAND, in capital letters, on the bilge of the hogshead, in such manner that the said word shall not easily be cut or rubbed out, without injury to the part of the hogshead on which it is branded.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That any hogshead or hogsheads of tobacco, which shall be offered to any inspector or inspectors as Maryland tobacco, for the purpose of being branded as such, which was not raised, cured and packed in the state of Maryland, shall be forfeited by the person or persons offering the same, and so soon as the inspector or inspectors shall discover that the said tobacco was not raised, cured and packed in this state, he shall take possession of the same in the name of the state, and shall advertise the same for sale to the highest bidder for ready cash, and proceed to sell it after giving not less than thirty days notice from the seizure thereof, and after paying the costs of such sale, shall pay one-half of the net proceeds to the treasurer of the western shore of Maryland, and the other half to the informer. Forfeit for attempted fraud.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That if any person shall think him or herself aggrieved, he may lodge his complaint by motion in writing, before the city court of Baltimore, or any of the county courts of this state where the tobacco warehouse is situated, and the city or county court, as the case may be, shall immediately hear and determine the same, and if the court shall decide that the tobacco was the growth of Maryland, then the tobacco, if not sold, shall be immediately restored to the owner or owners, and if sold, the net proceeds thereof in money; but if the court shall decide against the party claiming, he, she or they, shall pay all costs. Appeal.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That any person or persons branding any hogshead or hogsheads of tobacco, with the word Maryland, on the bilge or any other part of a hogshead or hogsheads, with intent to evade the provisions of this act, the person or persons so offending, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and prosecuted in any court in this state, in the same manner as persons are prosecuted for any other felony, and upon con- Forging the brand made felony.