
SESSION OF MAY 1697

CHAPTER 127.

THE LAW FOR RATIFYING & CONFIRMING THE ACTS & PROCEEDINGS OF
THE ASSEMBLY IN 1696.

Whereas Divers Persons within this Government have Expressed Their Dissatisfaction both with the Proceedings & Dissolution of the Councill and Assembly, in October 1696, Insisting that their Charterall Rights wer given away thereby, And that all the Laws Past at the Last Assembly are void, & of no force, with Such like Objections that are made use of to obstruct the Proceedings of this Assembly; as also to amuse the People & bring the Government into Confusion:

Now forasmuch as it is Sufficiently Apparent That by the Act Past at the Said Last Assembly Intituled the frame of the Government of the Province of Pennsilvania, And the Territories Thereunto belonging, Provision is made against Such Dissolution of Councill, and Assembly, as is Complained of; And that our Charterall Rights are so far from being taken or given away That they are Effectually Asserted with Suffi-cient Salvo's to Preserve the Peoples just Rights and Claims, to all and every the priviledges and Imunities granted them by any Charter or Other Grant from the Proprietary, In Case he should Disapprove of the Said frame of Government:

Therfor for Removing, and Preventing all farther Doubts, Scruples and Disputes, Concerning the Meeting; Sitting, and Proceedings of this Present General Assembly. Be it Declared & Enacted: And it is Declared & Enacted by the Governor & Representatives of the free-men of the said Province & Territories in Councill & Assembly, Met & by the Authority of the Same, that the Governor and freemen of the Said Province and Territories Met at Philadelphia, on the Tenth Day of the Third Month 1697 And now sitting in Generall Assembly, are the Councill, and Assembly, of the Said Province of Pennsilvania and Territories Thereunto belonging, And Shall be and are hereby De-

clared Enacted, & Adjudged, So to be To all Intents, Constructions, and Purposes whatsoever as if this Generall Assembly had been Elected according to the Rotation of the Charter of Liberties before Colonel Fletcher Came to the Administration of this Government, And as if this Present Councill & Assembly had Consisted of the Number, and had Met on the Days in the Said Charter & former Act of Settlement Limited, & appoynted. And it is further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the said frame of Government, and all other the Acts and Laws made and Past at the Said Last Assembly held here in October and November 1696, as also all other Laws formerly Enacted and now in force and not by this Generall Assembly altered, or Repealed, are hereby Declared & Enacted to Stand, and Remain, in force, And be Reputed, observed, Adjudged, & taken, as the Laws of this Government—Any Law, Charter or Usage to the Contrary in any wise notwithstanding

A.P.S., Original Laws of Pennsylvania from 1693-1700, f. 99.
H.S.P. Cadwalader Collection. Act of May 22, 1697, chapter 1. Superseded by chapter 135, 1698.

CHAPTER 128.

THE LAW FOR THE ENCOURAGMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE POST OFFICE.

Whereas in the Year 1693 a Generall Post Office was by Law Erected att the Request of Andrew Hamilton at Philadelphia by which Law a Rate was put upon all Letters, And whereas the Charge of the Said Office hath much exceeded the Postage and Being Sensible of the Benefit of the Said Office to Trade and Commerce and to the Province & Territories in Generall if it be Continued, and of the great Loss that will happen to both if it should fall for want of Encouragement.

Be it therefor Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that it Shall & may be Lawfull for the Said Andrew Hamilton or Some other that Shall be apoynted by the King to be Post Master Generall in these Parts and his or their Deputies in that Office to Demand Receive and take for the Postage of all Letters So Conveyd or Sent Post as aforesaid according to and not exceeding the Rates following vizt: for all forrign