

## CHAPTER CCXXVIII.

## AN ACT FOR RAISING A DUTY UPON TONNAGE OF SHIPS AND VESSELS.

We, the representatives of the freemen of the province of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, for a further supply towards the support of government, desire the governor that it may be enacted:

[Section I.] And be it enacted, by William Keith, Esquire, by and with the King's royal approbation Deputy-Lieutenant and Governor under William Penn, Esquire, Proprietary and Governor-in-Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania, &c., by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That for and during the term of three years, commencing from and after the publication of this act, there shall be raised, collected and paid towards the support of this government for and upon the tonnage of all ships, sloops and other vessels, the majority of whose owners not being inhabitants of this province, wherein at any time or times, and for every time during the said term of three years, there shall be imported any goods or merchandise into any port or place, river or creek belonging to this province from any parts, places or countries whatsoever: (That is to say) for every ton of the burden or contents of any of the said ships or [other] vessels owned as aforesaid, the sum of twelve pence, to be accounted, taken and paid according to the measure of such ships or vessels, which shall be made and taken by the person hereafter appointed collector of the said duties in the ports or places where they shall arrive.

And that the masters or owners or freighters of all such ships, sloops or vessels importing goods inwards or carrying goods coastwise, shall, upon every arrival of any such ships or vessels at the port or place of their discharge or unloading in this province, cause and procure such ships or vessels to be

entered in the said collector's office, and at the time of such entry and before any goods or merchandises shall be unladen out of any such ships or vessels, shall either pay down in ready money to the said collector the duty and sums of money due and payable for the tonnage of all such ships or vessels, or else shall give good and sufficient security by bond to the treasurer of this province, with sureties to be approved by the said collector to pay the said duties and sums to the said treasurer for the use aforesaid, within the space of six weeks after the arrival of the ship or vessel.

And where the said duties shall be paid down, the parties paying the same shall have an allowance by way of rebate or deduction out of the same, after the rate of ten pounds per cent of the said duties for every hundred pounds which duties so paid down shall amount unto.

And in case any goods, wares or merchandises imported or carried coastwise shall be unshipped or landed before the said duties or sum's of money, so as aforesaid, due or payable for the tonnage of such ships or vessels importing or carrying goods coastwise, as aforesaid, shall be paid down or secured, as aforesaid, that then every such ship or vessel out of which any such goods or merchandises shall be unladen before payment made or security given for the said duties, shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred pounds, one moiety thereof to the governor for the time being, towards the support of this government, and the other moiety to the said collector, or such other person or persons as shall sue or inform for the same, to be recovered in any court of record in this province by action of debt, bill, plaint or information, wherein no essoin, protection or wager of law shall be allowed. And over and besides the said forfeitures, the masters, owners and freighters of every such ship or vessel shall be liable and chargeable for the said duties of tonnage, which shall not be paid or secured as aforesaid.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted and declared, That all ships or vessels liable to the payment of duty of tonnage by this act imposed, shall be gauged and measured or caused to be gauged or measured by the said collector, in manner following:

(That is to say) every single-decked ship or vessel shall be measured by the length of the keel, taken within board, so much as she treads upon the ground, and the breadth to be taken within board by the midship beam, from plank to plank, and the depth of the hold from the plank below the keelson to the under part of the deck plank; and for two-decked ships which carry goods between decks, the depth of her hold to be taken from the plank below the keelson to the under part of the upper deck plank; and the length and breadth as before; then multiply the length by the breadth and the product thereof by the depth, and divide the whole by ninety-four, and the quotient will give the true contents of the tonnage—according to which method and rule all ships and vessels shall be measured, and the several duties of tonnage thereby be computed and collected accordingly, any custom, practice or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed February 22, 1717-18. Apparently never submitted to the consideration of the Crown. See Appendix IV, Section II, and the Acts of Assembly passed May 31, 1718, Chapter 232; February 24, 1720-21, Chapter 240; April 29, 1758, Chapter 432.

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## CHAPTER CCXXIX.

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### AN ACT FOR ERECTING HOUSES OF CORRECTION AND WORKHOUSES, IN THE RESPECTIVE COUNTIES OF THIS PROVINCE.

Whereas the proprietary and first adventurers in their principal model of this government proposed that for crimes inferior to murder, the punishments might be by way of restitution, fine, imprisonment, and such like; and where the offender proved not of ability to make such satisfaction then he should be kept in prison or house of correction at hard labor; but no effectual care hath been yet taken to erect such houses, by reason whereof many evildoers escape unpunished, and servants, who, for their neglect and abuses, should be kept at work in such houses, are become incorrigible; therefore may it please the governor that it may be enacted:-