

CHAPTER DXXXVI.

---

AN ACT FOR APPOINTING WARDENS FOR THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA AND FOR THE REGULATING PILOTS PLYING IN THE RIVER AND BAY OF DELAWARE AND THE PRICE OF PILOTAGE TO AND FROM THE SAID PORT.

Whereas frequent and heavy losses have arisen to the merchants and others trading to and from the port of Philadelphia from the ignorance and misconduct of unskilful persons acting as pilots in the bay and river Delaware and from the want of proper rules and regulations being established, to the great injury of the said merchants and others:

For remedy whereof:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Honorable John Penn, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor under the Honorable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania and counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware, by and with the advice and consent of the representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That Abel James, Robert Morris, John Nixon, Peter Reeve, Oswald Eve, Michael Hulings and Thomas Penrose are hereby nominated and appointed wardens of the said port of Philadelphia, and that it shall and may be lawful for them, or any three of them, the president hereinafter directed to be chosen being one, as soon as conveniently may be after the publication of this act, having first taken the qualification hereinafter directed, to meet together at some convenient place in the said city at such times as are hereinafter mentioned for the executing and performing the duties hereby enjoined and required of them, and shall have full power to appoint and employ a skilful person to be their clerk, who shall keep fair minutes and entries of all their orders, regulations and transactions in a book to be kept for that purpose, and shall, before he enters upon the duties of his office, give good and sufficient security to the governor of the

province for the time being for the faithful discharge of his office in the sum of fifty pounds, to be approved of by the said wardens, or any five of them, which said minutes and entries shall be public and submitted to the inspection of any person or persons who shall desire to see or peruse them, he or they so desiring the inspection paying to the clerk the sum of one shilling for each time the books shall be examined; and that the said clerk shall give true copies of any such entries or minutes made in the said books to such person or persons as shall demand the same, he or they paying an half-penny for each line the said copy shall contain, every line to consist of not less than twelve words; and the said wardens are hereby empowered to have and use one common seal in their affairs, and the same at their pleasure to change and revoke.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said wardens, or a majority of them, shall have power to choose yearly and every year by way of ballot one of their own number to be their president, who shall continue in his office during the space of one year, and the said president, with any three of the other wardens, shall have full power and authority to do and perform all and every act, matter and thing herein enjoined and required of them; and in case the said president so chosen shall neglect or refuse to attend at any of the times appointed for the meeting of the wardens, it shall and may be lawful for the wardens met, being at least five in number, to choose in the same manner a president for the time being.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be four meetings of the said wardens in every year: That is to say, on the second Mondays in March, June, September and December respectively; and at such other times as the president or in his absence two other wardens may think necessary on application made to him or them for that purpose, which said meetings shall be called by his or their order issued to the clerk directing him to summon all the said wardens to meet on twelve hours' notice to hear and determine all matters and things that shall or may come before them, and that the president shall receive for each day he shall attend or be employed the sum of seven shillings and six pence, and every other warden the sum of five shillings and no more.

[Section IV.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a board of wardens shall have full power and authority to examine all persons offering themselves to serve as pilots to and from the port of Philadelphia as to their knowledge and skill in pilotage and to give three kinds of certificates agreeable to the qualifications of such candidates, the first to such pilots as shall be qualified to pilot ships or vessels of any draught of water, the second to pilots for ships or vessels not exceeding in draught of water twelve feet, the third to pilots for vessels not exceeding in draught of water nine feet.

[Section V.] Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said persons, upon the receipt of their certificates, shall give bond with one sufficient surety to the governor for the time being, to be approved of by the said board of wardens, who are hereby authorized to take the same without fee or reward, in such a sum as they shall think needful, not exceeding fifty nor less than thirty pounds, conditioned that they will truly and faithfully perform all and every the duties and services required and imposed on them by this act.

[Section VI.] And be it further enacted and provided by the authority aforesaid, That no person who shall be bound apprentice from and after the first day of September next ensuing the publication of this act shall be entitled to receive a certificate as a first-rate pilot unless he shall have served a regular apprenticeship of at least four years to the business of a pilot.

[Section VII.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every pilot who shall conduct any ship or vessel from the port of Philadelphia to the capes of Delaware or from the said capes to the said port shall have and receive for his trouble the sum of five shillings for every half-foot of water which such vessel shall draw and so in proportion for any lesser distance, to be settled and adjusted by the said board of wardens; provided, that the said pilot shall not have or receive any reward for any supernumerary inches under the number six.

[Section VIII.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the first day of June next ensuing the publication hereof no person or persons whatsoever shall be capable of suing, commencing or prosecuting any action, suit

or complaint at law against any person or persons whatsoever for any sum or sums of money that shall be due for pilotage of any ship or vessel in the said river or bay of Delaware unless he or they shall have obtained a certificate as aforesaid of his or their being duly qualified to act as a pilot or pilots; and that if any ship or vessel shall be brought or navigated up to the port of Philadelphia or carried from thence by any person or persons not having such certificate, if such qualified pilot may be had or procured, that then and in every such case the master, owner or merchant of such vessel on due proof thereof shall forfeit and pay to the said board of wardens for the use of any such pilot who shall have first so offered himself a sum of money equal to one-half of the pilotage of the said vessel, settled and ascertained by virtue of this act, to be recovered before any two justices of the city or county of Philadelphia in the same manner as disputes respecting the sum or sums of money due for pilotage is or are directed hereafter to be recovered.

[Section IX.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful, upon complaint made, for any two justices of the peace within this province, and they are hereby empowered and required to issue forth their precept in writing, under their hands and seals, in the nature of a summons, *capias* or attachment as the case may require, directed to any constable, commanding him to bring or cause to come before them any person or persons against whom complaint shall be made respecting any demand, matter, cause, controversy or dispute that shall or may arise between pilots, masters of vessels, merchants or others respecting pilotage, and thereupon to proceed to hear the proofs and allegations of the said parties or such of them as shall appear and to determine and pass judgment thereon and also to award process under the hands and seals of the said justices against the body or the goods of the person or persons against whom such judgment shall be given for the sum due, with like costs of suit as are generally recovered before a justice of the peace on debts above forty shillings and not exceeding five pounds, and that the said justices shall keep fair entries and records of all their proceed-

ings from the commencement of the first process to the final end of such suit in a book to be provided for that purpose.

[Section X.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said wardens, or a majority of them, shall and they are hereby authorized and empowered from time to time to make such rules and orders as shall be useful and necessary for the governing and better regulating the pilots aforesaid, and to impose and lay any fine for the breach of such orders and rules not exceeding the sum of ten pounds, to be recovered before any two justices of the peace in manner aforesaid, which said rules and orders shall be inviolably observed and executed by all persons concerned according to the tenor, true intent and meaning thereof, provided they be not repugnant to the laws of England or this government and shall be approved of by the speaker of assembly, chief justice and attorney general of this province under their hands and seals.

[Section XI.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That before the said wardens take upon themselves the office of wardens each and every of them shall take an oath or affirmation:

“That he will well and faithfully, to the best of his skill, understanding and judgment, perform, do, execute and discharge the office and duty of a warden according to the directions of this act;”

which qualification any justice of the peace of and for the county of Philadelphia is hereby authorized and enjoined to administer.

[Section XII.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any ship or other vessel shall come into the port of Philadelphia or shall go out of the said port (vessels under the burden of fifty tons, carpenter's tonnage, according to the mensuration prescribed by the act, entitled “A supplement to the act, entitled ‘An act for erecting a light-house at the mouth of the bay of Delaware at or near Cape Henlopen, for placing and fixing buoys in the said bay and river Delaware,’” &c.,<sup>1</sup> only excepted) without having a pilot on board, the master, owner or merchant of such ship or vessel shall forfeit and pay

---

<sup>1</sup> Passed September 22, 1764, Chapter 515.

to the said wardens the sum of money which shall be equal to one-half of the amount of the pilotage thereof unless it be proved that a pilot was sought for and could not be procured.

[Section XIII.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if it shall so happen that any first-rate pilot having his boat attending him at the capes shall be carried from thence to sea by any ship or vessel contrary to his inclination, the master or owner of such ship or vessel shall pay to such pilot, his executors or administrators, the sum of six pounds per month for every month he shall be necessarily absent until his return to the said capes or in case he shall die while so absent, then to the time of his death, and if no boat shall attend such pilot the said master or owner shall pay him the sum of three pounds per month as aforesaid; and if any second-rate pilot shall be carried off as aforesaid, having his boat attending him as aforesaid, he shall be paid the sum of four pounds per month, if without his boat forty shillings per month; and if any third-rate pilot shall be carried off as aforesaid, with his boat attending him, he shall be paid three pounds per month, if without his boat, forty shillings per month, by the said master or owner of such ship or vessel who shall so convey or carry off such pilots respectively for every month until his death or return to the said capes aforesaid.

[Section XIV.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any pilot duly qualified in virtue of this act shall neglect or refuse on due notice given to him to aid or assist any ship or vessel which shall be in distress within six leagues to the southward of Cape Henlopen and the same distance to the eastward of Cape May or in the river or bay of Delaware aforesaid, or in case any ship or vessel shall be lost or damaged by the manifest neglect of the pilot having charge of her, every such pilot so refusing to aid or assist or neglecting his duty shall, on due proof made thereof before any board of wardens, be rendered incapable of exercising the office and duty of a pilot, and the certificate before given him shall be utterly void, and that all contracts and agreements made or to be made by and between any pilot and the master of any ship or vessel in distress for his aid and assistance shall be also void, and such

pilot shall be entitled to ask, demand or recover no more than a reasonable reward for his said aid, assistance and service, any such contract notwithstanding.

[Section XV.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall conceive him or themselves aggrieved by any judgment given by two justices in pursuance of this act, it shall and may be lawful for su[ch person or perso]ns to appeal to the next county court of common pleas to be held for the county where the said judgment shall be given, which said appeal shall be allowed by the said justices upon sufficient security given for prosecuting the same, and that the proceedings on such appeal shall be prosecuted on the same terms, in the same manner and under the same penalties as are directed by the act, entitled "An act for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts."<sup>1</sup>

[Section XVI.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons whatsoever shall take up any anchor or cable in the bay or river Delaware, every such person or persons shall bring, or cause to be brought, every such anchor or cable to the port of Philadelphia and deliver it to the president or one of the said wardens under the penalty of one hundred pounds, to be recovered in the court of common pleas for any county of this province by action of debt to be brought by the said president or the wardens for the time being or the person who shall rightfully own such anchor or cable; and that upon the delivery of such anchor or cable to the said president as aforesaid and an appraisement thereof by any two of the [said wardens to be appointed by the board] for that purpose, the said board shall pay to the person or persons so taking up the said anchor or cable suc[h salvage] not exceeding one-half of the value, as in the judgment of a board of wardens shall be reasonable. And the said president shall without delay advertise the said anchor or cable so delivered to him three times in some of the public newspapers published in the city of Philadelphia unless the owner thereof or his factor do immediately appear and claim the same, and shall permit and suffer the said anchor or cable to be viewed [by any] person or persons who

---

<sup>1</sup> Passed February 21, 1735-36, Chapter 341.

shall make application to him for that purpose; and if any person or persons shall claim and make satisfactory proof of his or their right and property therein within the space of twelve months next after the date of the first advertisement before a board of wardens, the said anchor or cable the property whereof shall be so proved, shall be restored to such claimant upon his paying the salvage and reasonable costs; but if no person or persons shall, within the time aforesaid, claim and make proof of his property in such anchor or cable then and in such case the [said president shall expose the same to sale at public] vendue [at the London Coffee House or some other public] place, and after deducting [the salvage so paid as aforesaid and] the charges reasonably accruing thereon shall pay the overplus of the money proceeding from such sale to the person or persons who took up the said anchor or cable so sold; and that the said wardens shall keep a fair record of the time of the delivery and name or names of the person or persons so delivering any anchor or cable and of the weight, marks, [claims] and proofs thereof.

And whereas in pursuance of the direction of [an act] of general assembly of this province, entitled "An act for erecting a light-house at the mouth of the bay of Delaware at or near Cape Henlopen, for placing and fixing buoys in the said bay and river Delaware, &c.,"<sup>1</sup> a light-house has been erected on Cape Henlopen and sundry buoys and beacons are to be fixed on the bay and river Delaware for the more convenient and safe navigation to and from the said port of Philadelphia at a great expense:

[Section XVII.] Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall, after the publication of this act, remove or destroy or be [aiding and assisting in the removal or destruction of any of] the said [buoys or beacons, or shall burn or otherwise destroy] or be aiding or assisting [in the burning or destroying the] said light-house and shall be apprehended in this province for the same, and duly convicted thereof in any county court of quarter sessions of the county where he shall be so apprehended, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred pounds or suffer twelve months' im-

---

<sup>1</sup> Passed September 30, 1763, Chapter 502.

prisonment without bail or mainprise and be whipped at the common whipping post with any [number] of lashes well laid on his bare back not exceeding thirty-[nine].

[Section XVIII.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all fines, forfeitures, penalties and sums of money not hereinbefore appropriated shall be applied and appropriated by the said wardens for and towards the payment of the wages which shall from time to time become due to them, the salary of their clerk, the rent of a convenient office or place for holding their board and other necessary and incidental expenses arising from the execution of this act, and in case there be any overplus the same shall be paid annually by the said wardens [to the treasurer for the time being appointed or to be appointed by virtue of the before recited act; and in case the said] fines, penalties, [forfeitures and sums of money] aforesaid shall not be sufficient for the purposes aforesaid, that then and in such case the same shall be paid and defrayed out of the moneys which shall be and remain in the hands of the said treasurer over and above what shall be necessary to defray the expense of building, supporting and maintaining the said lighthouse and other charges necessarily accruing thereby.

[Section XIX.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said wardens [shall yearly and every year lay their] accounts [of the] money by them received and disb[ursed for] the purposes herein [menti]oned before the committee of assembly for [the] time being appointed for the settlement of the public accounts, to be [by] them examined, adjusted and laid before the assembly then sitting.

[Section XX.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall be and continue in force [for and] during the space of three years and from thence to the end of the next sitting of assembly and no longer.

Passed February 8, 1766. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, February 11, 1767, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXV, Section I. Repealed by the Act of Assembly passed May 20, 1767, Chapter 561.