

shall be adjudged guilty of high treason and forfeit his lands, tenements, goods and chattels to the use of the state, and be imprisoned any term not exceeding the duration of the present war with Great Britain at the discretion of the judge or judges.

[Section III.] And be it further ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid, That any person or persons, (except as before excepted) residing, inhabiting or sojourning in this state who shall hereafter know of such treason and conceal the same, or that shall receive or assist such traitor knowing him to be such, and shall be thereof duly convicted as aforesaid, shall be adjudged guilty of misprison of treason and suffer the forfeiture of one-third of his goods and chattels, lands and tenements, to the use of the state, and be imprisoned any term, not exceeding the duration of the present war with Great Britain, at the discretion of the judge or judges.

[Section IV.] And be it further ordained and declared, That in all convictions for high treason the judge or judges before whom the trial is had may out of the estate forfeited by virtue of this act make such provision for the wife or children if any of the criminal as he or they in his or their discretion may deem necessary.

[Section V.] And be it further ordained and declared, That this ordinance shall be in force till the end of the first session of the first assembly that shall meet under the new constitution of this state and no longer.

Passed September 5, 1776. See Appendix XXXV, and the note to the Act of Assembly passed May 31, 1718, Chapter 236; and the Act of Assembly passed February 11, 1777, Chapter 740. Expired.

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## CHAPTER DCCXXXIII.

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AN ORDINANCE FOR PUNISHING PERSONS GUILTY OF CERTAIN OFFENSES THEREIN MENTIONED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Whereas evil disposed persons may by speaking or writing endeavor to influence the minds of weak and unwary persons

and thereby impede the present virtuous opposition made by the free, independent and United States of America against the wicked and tyrannic measures pursued by the King and parliament of Great Britain:

For the prevention thereof:

[Section I.] Be it ordained and declared by the Representatives of the Freemen of the State of Pennsylvania in General Convention met, That if any person or persons within this state shall by advisedly speaking or writing obstruct or oppose or endeavor so to do the measures carrying on by the United States of America for the defense and support of the freedom and independence of the said states, such person or persons on complaint and proof made on oath or affirmation before any justice of the peace of the city and county where the offense shall be committed, shall be held to give security for his or their good behavior in such sum or sums of money as the said justice may think necessary, and in default of giving such security shall be committed to the common gaol of the said city or county respectively by the said justice, there to remain until he or they shall give such security or be otherwise legally discharged; and if the said justice shall on the evidence given judge that such offender is too dangerous, unfriendly or inimical to the American cause to be admitted to bail, then and in such case he may and shall associate to himself two other justices of the peace of the said city or county respectively, and if they or any two of them shall judge in like manner they may by warrant under their hands and seals commit such persons to the common gaol of the city or county respectively for such time as they shall deem proper not exceeding the duration of the present war with Great Britain.

[Section II.] And be it further ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall think him or themselves aggrieved by the judgment of the said justice or justices, he or they may appeal to the council of safety for this state, who shall without delay determine the same and may confirm, nullify, suspend, alter or mitigate the judgment of the said justice or justices.

[Section III.] And be it further ordained and declared by

the authority aforesaid, That this ordinance shall continue in force until the end of the first session of the future legislature of this state or until altered or repealed by the same or by this convention.

Passed September 12, 1776. See Appendix XXXV, and the Act of Assembly passed September 16, 1777, Chapter 762. Expired. The ordinance in the text was declared not to be obligatory, by Resolution of Assembly passed September 26, 1776. (Votes of Assembly, Vol. VI, p. 764.)

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#### CHAPTER DCCXXXIV.

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##### AN ORDINANCE TO COMPEL DEBTORS IN CERTAIN CASES TO GIVE SECURITY TO THEIR CREDITORS.

Whereas at this time when the courts of justice in this state are shut, it is absolutely necessary that honest creditors should be made secure, when it shall appear that otherwise they might by dishonest debtors taking advantage of the times, run the risk of losing their just debts:

[Section I.] Be it therefore ordained and declared by the Representatives of the Freemen of the State of Pennsylvania in General Convention met, That where complaint by oath or affirmation by the complainant or some person for him shall be made to any justice of the peace for this state that any person or persons residing within the city or county where such justice hath jurisdiction is justly indebted to the complainant in any sum not exceeding five pounds, and that such debtor is about to depart this state with design to defraud his creditors as is believed, and that such debtor, being of sufficient ability in the judgment of the said justice on full examination had, refuses to pay or give reasonable security in the nature of a special bail for the same to abide the judgment of such person or persons as shall hereafter be empowered to judge and determine the matter in controversy, it shall and may be lawful for such justice to issue either a summons or *capias* as the case may require, directed to the proper constable, requiring him to cause the de-