

Laws enacted in the first sitting of the first general assembly of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which began at Philadelphia, November 28, 1776, and was continued by adjournments to March 21, 1777.

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CHAPTER DCCXXXVI.

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AN ACT TO ENABLE A SMALLER NUMBER OF THE MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY THAN A QUORUM TO COLLECT THE ABSENT MEMBERS AND ISSUE WRITS FOR FILLING VACANCIES OCCASIONED BY NEGLIGENCE OR REFUSAL.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas it is found necessary to empower a less number than two-thirds of the representatives of the freemen of this state in assembly met to collect the absent members, in order that the public business may not be delayed:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the publication of this act, if a quorum of the members of the general assembly who have qualified themselves to take their seats in assembly do not appear in the house for the space of six days after the time to which the house shall adjourn, it shall and may be lawful for the speaker for the time being by direction of a majority of the members present to issue his order commanding the attendance of each respective absent member, or such of them as they may see fit at the proper cost and charge of such members respectively, except prevented by sickness or some other occasion which shall be allowed by the house to be a sufficient excuse for absence, and in that case the costs shall be paid by order of the house out of the state treasury.

[Section II] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted, That if two-thirds parts of the members of such counties respectively that do elect and send members to serve in the general assembly of this state shall neglect or refuse to appear and take their seats in the house within ten days after the time fixed by the constitution of this commonwealth, the majority of such as do appear in order to take their seats are hereby authorized and empowered to issue their writs to the sheriff or coroner of the respective counties where such neglect or refusal shall be, commanding him to cause an election to be held for electing a member or members to supply every such vacancy in such county (which election shall be held as the laws of Pennsylvania direct for filling vacancies in assembly as the same may be altered or revived by this house), which writs shall be as good and available to all intents and purposes as writs for supplying vacancies in the general assembly can or ought to be if they were issued by the speaker by direction of a full house. And the members which shall be so elected shall meet the other members in assembly on the fourteenth day after every such election, to which time and no longer the members that shall issue such writs may adjourn.

Passed January 21, 1777. See the Act of Assembly passed October 11, 1777, Chapter 764.

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## CHAPTER DCCXXXVII.

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AN ACT TO REVIVE AND PUT IN FORCE SUCH AND SO MUCH OF THE LATE LAWS OF THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA AS IS JUDGED NECESSARY TO BE IN FORCE IN THIS COMMONWEALTH AND [TO] REVIVE AND ESTABLISH THE COURTS OF JUSTICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas by the unconstitutional power claimed by the British King and parliament over the American colonies and the cruel and oppressive measures which the said King and parliament have pursued to establish that power it