

person being thereof legally convicted by the evidence of two or more creditable witnesses in any court of general quarter sessions shall be adjudged guilty of misprison of treason and shall suffer imprisonment during the present war, and forfeit to the commonwealth one-half of his or her lands and tenements, goods and chattels.

[Section IV] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all offenses by this act declared misprison of treason shall be cognizable before any justice of the peace of the city or county where the offense was committed or where the offender can be found, and every justice of the peace within this state on complaint to him made on oath or affirmation of one or more credible person or persons shall cause such offender to come before him and enter into a recognizance with one or more sufficient surety or sureties to be and appear at the next court of general quarter sessions for the said city or county and abide the judgment of the court, and in the meantime to be of the peace and good behavior toward all people in the state, and for want of such surety the said justice shall commit such offender to the common gaol of the said city or county. And all persons charged on oath or affirmation with any crime or crimes by this act declared to be treason against the state shall be dealt with and proceeded against as in other capital crimes are [sic] [is] by law directed.

Passed February 11, 1777. See the notes to the Act of Assembly passed May 31, 1718, Chapter 236; and the Ordinance of the First Constitutional Convention passed September 5, 1776, Chapter 732; and the Acts of Assembly passed March 8, 1780, Chapter 889; December 3, 1782, Chapter 1000; February 18, 1785, Chapter 1132; April 22, 1794, Chapter 1777. Repealed by the Act of Assembly passed March 31, 1860, P. L. 427.

CHAPTER DCCXLI.

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE MODE AND MANNER OF QUALIFYING THE COMMISSIONERS AND ASSESSORS.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas it is absolutely necessary for the commissioners and assessors of the respective counties in this

commonwealth to enter immediately upon the execution of their offices as the laws direct:

And whereas the want of justices in several of the counties aforesaid renders it impracticable to qualify the commissioners and assessors as directed by the late laws of Pennsylvania:

For remedy whereof:

[Section I] (Section II, P. L.) Be it 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 the commissioners and assessors of the respective counties in this state where there are no justices to qualify them be required and enjoined, and they are hereby required and enjoined, to meet together at their respective court houses on [or before] the twentieth day of February instant, and the commissioners aforesaid or any one of them shall cause their clerk to write in their minute book the following words, to-wit:

“I do swear (or affirm, as the cause may be) that I will well, truly and faithfully perform, do and execute the several and respective duties required of me by the laws of this state as a commissioner of the county of, in this commonwealth according to the best of my skill and abilities, and herein I will spare no person through fear, favor or affection, nor grieve any through hatred or ill will;”

And when such words are wrote as aforesaid the commissioners, each one for himself, shall take up the aforesaid writing and repeat the words, and when each commissioner shall have repeated the words aforesaid he shall subscribe his name thereunto. And in the counties where there is a justice or justices the said commissioners shall take an oath or affirmation of the same import before one of the justices, who is hereby enjoined and required to administer the same, which oath or affirmation shall be entered in the said commissioners' minute book as aforesaid.

[Section II] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the assessors of the respective counties in this commonwealth are enjoined and required to take an oath or affirmation, which oath or affirmation shall be in the same words as is directed in this act to be taken by the

commissioners, excepting the word commissioner, in the stead of which the word assessor shall be used. And the commissioners or any one of them (having taken the oath as hereinbefore directed) are hereby authorized and required to administer [the same], which oath so taken shall be subscribed by the assessor aforesaid and certified by the commissioner.

[Section III] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the oaths and affirmations taken as directed in this act is [are] hereby declared to be as binding to all intents and purposes on all persons as the oaths and affirmations administered and taken according to the form prescribed by the laws of Pennsylvania.

Passed February 12, 1777. See the Act of Assembly passed April 17, 1795, Chapter 1852.

CHAPTER DCCXLII.

AN ACT DIRECTING THE MODE OF COLLECTING THE FINES IMPOSED ON PERSONS WHO DID NOT MEET AND EXERCISE IN ORDER TO LEARN THE ART MILITARY ACCORDING TO THE RESOLVES OF THE LATE ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas by a resolve of the late house of assembly dated the fifth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, imposing a fine on all able-bodied effective male white persons capable of bearing arms, not associators, between the ages of sixteen and fifty years (ministers of the gospel of all denominations, schoolmasters in actual employ and servants purchased bona fide and for a valuable consideration only excepted):

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas (to the great discouragement and dissatisfaction of the spirited and virtuous associators in this state) the fines have not been collected:

Therefore, for making effectual the said resolve:

[Section I] (Section III, P. L.) Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the freemen of the Common-